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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

King Hassan Chairs Jerusalem Committee Meeting *[Rabat Radio]* 1
Addresses Opening Meeting *[Rabat Radio]* 1
'Arafat, ICO Leader Meet *[Rabat Radio]* 2
Committee Issues Statement *[Rabat Radio]* 2
Committee Resolutions Cited *[Rabat Radio]* 2
Committee Statement Reported *[SPA]* 3
Arab Committee on Lebanon Issues Statement *[SPA]* 6
Foreign Ministers Comment on Israel, Iraq *[MENA]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Mouloud Hamouche on Alleged 'Misappropriation' *[Algiers TV]* 8
Mubarak Discusses Peace Process, Domestic Issues *[MENA]* 8
Mahmud 'Abbas, Usamah al-Baz Comment on Talks *[MENA]* 10
Mubarak Phones Saddam, Makes Appointment for Dole *[MENA]* 11
Yemen Arab Republic Foreign Minister Departs *[MENA]* 11
'Islamic Groups' Clash With Security Forces in Suez *[AL-WAFD 6 Apr]* 11
Palestinian Women Protest Barring of Visitors *[AL-WAFD 6 Apr]* 12

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Student Revolt Speech *[Tripoli TV]* 12
Students Pledge Support for Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 18
African Communications Body Accepts Libya *[JANA]* 18
European Parliament Ban on Export to Iraq Viewed *[JANA]* 18
Comments on 'Biased' Iranian Media, Arab Unity *[JANA]* 19

Mauritania

Military Committee Appoints New Finance Minister *[Nouakchott Radio]* 19
Former Polisario Official Arrives for Visit *[BBC]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Comments on Regional Relations *[London AL-TADAMUN 9 Apr]* 20
Cabinet Supports Iraqi Actions, Praises Proposal *[WAKH]* 21

Kuwait

Spokesman Denounces 'Campaign' Against Iraq *[KUNA]* 21

PDRY

Official Says Unification Steps Nearly Complete *[Aden Radio]* 22

Saudi Arabia

Israel's Stance on Iraqi Chemical Weapons Viewed *[AL-YAWM 5 Apr]* 22

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Contacts Syrian, Libyan, Sudanese Leaders *[Sanaa Radio]* 23

IRAQ

'Reciprocal Move' To Deport U.S. Diplomat *[INA]* 24
Paper: Bush Statements Start of Election Campaign *[INA]* 24
Oil Minister Returns From Japan, Comments *[INA]* 24

ISRAEL

Peres Says Alignment Coalition Issue 'Closed' *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Moda'i Group Grants 'Free Vote' for Session *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir Accepts, Peres Rejects Unity Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shinuy Denies Agreement Reached With Moda'i *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
President Herzog Treated for Ulcer, Discharged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Bethlehem Mayor Comments After Meeting Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
New Soviet Delegation Head Appointed; Comments *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Apr]* 27
Data on Immigrant Settlement in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 9 Apr]* 27
Poll: 80 Percent for Changing Electoral System *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Apr]* 28
Update on Incidents in Territories 5, 6 Apr *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Apr, etc.]* 28
Incidents in Territories 6-8 Apr Reported *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Apr]* 28

JORDAN

Jordan, Libya Move Toward Reopening Embassies *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Apr]* 29
Finance Minister on Improved Economic Situation *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Apr]* 29

LEBANON

VOL Reports Release of French, Belgian Hostages 30
AL-SHIRA' on Hostage Release Negotiations *[AL-SHIRA' 9 Apr]* 30
Al-Hirawi 'Seriously Considering' Entering East *[Voice of National Resistance]* 30
Defense Minister on Damascus Talks, Al-Ta'if *[VOM]* 30
Phalangist Leaders Sa'adah, Bakhus Return *[VOL]* 30
Lahd Denies Israeli Plans To Annex Territory *[AFP]* 30
Algeria's Ghazali Comments on Arab Committee *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Sha'ban Urges 'All-Out War' Against Israel *[Tehran International]* 31
'Awn Army Personnel Joining 'Neutral Forces' *[VOL]* 32
Lubrani Reportedly Met 'Awn, Ja'ja' in Beirut *[Tehran International]* 32
'Awn Radio on Evacuating Bodies From Al-Qulay'at *[The Lebanese Radio]* 32
'Awn Comments on Army Barracks, Excommunication *[Beirut Radio]* 32
'Awn Calls for Second Al-Ta'if Agreement *[The Lebanese Radio]* 32
'Awn: No Solution, Dialogue With Lebanese Forces *[RFL]* 33
'Awn Calls for Army To Disarm Militias *[The Lebanese Radio]* 33
Ja'ja' on 'Comprehensive' Takeover of Eastern Area *[VOL]* 33
Sa'adah Calls on 'Awn To Follow Ja'ja' *[RFL]* 35
'Violent' Fighting Reported on Al-Qulay'at Front *[RFL]* 35
Shelling Abates After Cease-Fire Reached *[RFL]* 35
Hizballah Says Amal Shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
Amal, Hizballah Trade Artillery Fire in South *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Amal Group Attacks Lahdist Patrol; Casualties *[Voice of National Resistance]* 35

SYRIA

U.S. Senator Dole, Delegation Arrive 8 Apr *[SANA]* 36
Meet With Al-Asad; Depart *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Al-Shar' Comments on Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 36
TISHRIN Cited on East Beirut Developments *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Press on Peace, Israeli Stand, Jewish Immigration *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Leader Hekmatyar Interviewed *[Istanbul MILLIYET 3 Apr]* 38
Paper Comments on Mojaddedi Government *[BAKHTAR]* 39
Defense Minister Meets 'Arafat's Special Envoy *[BAKHTAR]* 39
Recent Military Activities Reported *[BAKHTAR]* 39
'Ambush' Conducted Against Konduz 'Extremists' *[Kabul Radio]* 40
State Security Seizes Arms, Kills 50 'Extremists' *[BAKHTAR]* 40

Bangladesh

Memo of Understanding Signed With USSR *[Dhaka Radio]* 40
Ershad Orders Ban Lifted on Three Publications *[AFP]* 40
Ban Reportedly Lifted *[Dhaka Radio]* 41

India

Pakistani Civil Defense Reportedly Mobilizing *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Singh: Government To Deal Firmly With Separatists *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Police Fire on Protestors During Curfew; 1 Killed *[AFP]* 41
Gujral Asks Pakistan To End Provocative Postures *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Comments on Bangladesh, PRC Border *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Paper Advises Bhutto To Abide by Simla Agreement *[INDIAN EXPRESS 28 Mar]* 42
Pakistan Accused of 'Causing Communal Tension' *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Kashmir Militants Extend Hostage Deadline *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Demand Release of Detainees *[Delhi Radio]* 43
One Body Found *[AFP]* 43
Whereabouts of Others Unknown *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Bill Extending Punjab President's Rule Approved *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Strike Called in Protest *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Minister Details Steps To Check Gujarat Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Officials Welcome Multiparty System in Nepal *[Delhi Radio]* 44
President Returns After Three-Country Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 44
500 Fishermen 'Kidnapped' by LTTE Released *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Shahbazi Interviewed on Visit to Pakistan *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Pakistan Radio, TV Chief Asked To Visit Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Paper on U.S.-Soviet 'Cooperation' in Region *[IRNA]* 46
ABRAR Editorial Rejects Ties With U.S. *[IRNA]* 47
UN Representative Meets Envoy Eliasson *[IRNA]* 47
Afghan Immigrants, Mojaheds Meet in Mashhad *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Paper Alleges Torture of Political Prisoners *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Mar]* 47
Mines Minister Meets Andreotti in Rome *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Returns to Tehran 6 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Natural Gas Protocol Agreement With USSR *[IRNA]* 49
Gas Exports to USSR Via Astara Begin *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Commentary on Renewed Gas Exports *[Tehran Radio]* 50

Nepal & Bhutan

Foreign Minister Comments on Ties With India *[AFP]* 51
Prime Minister Pleads for Unity, Thanks Press *[Kathmandu International]* 51
Processions Celebrate Lifting of Party Ban *[Kathmandu International]* 51
New Prime Minister on Elections, Other Issues *[Delhi Radio]* 51
New Political Parties Formally Open Offices *[AFP]* 52
Factors Influencing King's Decision Viewed *[AFP]* 52

Pakistan

Akhund Says Government Assessing Kashmir Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Bhutto Convenes Meeting on Afghanistan Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Ishaq Khan Briefed on Kashmir Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Defense Committee Reviews Regional Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Minister Says No Compromise on National Interests *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
'Hundreds' Join Opposition Leader's Hunger Strike *[AFP]* 54
Spokesman Expresses Anguish Over Riots in India *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Customs Seizes 1.6 Tonnes Hashish, 51 Kg Heroin *[AFP]* 55

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Calls for Talks; LTTE Team Arrives *[AFP]* 55
LTTE 'Guerrillas' Detain Indian Fishermen *[AFP]* 56
Detained Fishermen Released *[AFP]* 56

Inter-Arab Affairs

King Hassan Chairs Jerusalem Committee Meeting

LD0704085190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, flanked by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Moulay Sidi Mohamed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, chaired last night at the Royal Palace in Rabat the opening session of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee. [passage omitted]

The president of the state of Palestine, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, made a speech in which he extended his thanks and those of the Palestinian people to His Majesty King Hassan II for this good initiative which consists in calling on the Jerusalem Committee to convene at this difficult and fateful phase witnessed by the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian president reviewed, in his speech, the developments of the Palestinian issue, the effect of the immigration of Jews coming from some Eastern countries on the peace process in the Middle East. He gave some documents and data which show the dangers posed by the Zionist scheme for peace in the region.

Before the end of this session, his majesty the king, may God grant him victory, allowed the ICO [Islamic Confernece Organization] secretary general, Mr. Hamed al-Gabid, to speak. [passage omitted]

Addresses Opening Meeting

LD0804030890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1302 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Address by King Hassan II at opening meeting of Jerusalem Committee meeting in Rabat on 7 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be on our Lord, the prophet of God, and his family and companions. Dear Brother, Your Excellency the president of the state of Palestine, Mr. Yasir Arafat. Your excellencies the ministers and the ambassadors, Gentlemen: [passage omitted]

Jerusalem is known as a city situated in a country of God's vast land, but is it a city like all other cities? Is it not the first of the two qiblahs [direction to which Muslims turn in praying]? Does not its name resound in the ears and heart of every Muslim and stir in him various religious, dynastic, solidarity and human currents? Does not Jerusalem remind us that it is a city in which the three religions exist? Is it not that all the sons of Abraham, peace be upon him, coexisted in it as brothers? But is it not that those who are in control of it want to have sole control and domination of it, thus forgetting followers of Islam and Christianity, scorning with this attitude the deep and true philosophy of Judaism?

The Jerusalem Committee must today face two serious matters: first, Jerusalem should never become a living example of what had been taken by force acquiring legal recognition. This is what our opponents strive for and this is what will constitute, may God never allow it, a precedent which will put an end to justice and dealings among states. Second, is it reasonable or is it just for people who are not even Semites to be driven to settle in Jerusalem and fill vacuums and become—they themselves, their sons, and the sons of their sons—representatives of the fait accompli, making world conscience unable to deal with its problem without believing that it is committing a crime because it had turned people from their homeland? No! They should not enter that homeland with the intent of not making history or so that history's conscience is faced with a fait accompli.

Here we arrive at the meeting point of Arab and Islamic moves, because here the Arab-Israeli problem meets the Islamic Jerusalem-related Israeli problem. The settlement taking place in holy Jerusalem is also happening in the Arab occupied territories. Thus, by its foolishness, the adversary has been able to build with its own hands the bridge of a political, not ideological, meeting on the Arab-Israeli problem and the Islamic-Israeli problem.

We Arabs and Muslims were not the ones to call for this meeting. However, in order not to embarass anyone, we made an Arab issue of the occupied territories and created a Jerusalem and Islamic question. However, thanks be to God, the foolishness of the adversary made each political researcher and analyst a prisoner of this cohesion of the Arab-Israeli problem and the Islamic-Israeli problem.

In the work of the Arab league, the Arabs have adopted methods including forming a seven-man committee, which has now become a nine-man committee, to make moves in the world and with the UN Security Council five permanent member states to explain and clarify the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli problem. Now, however, in the face of this mistake and ignorance—because several decisions or positions had been made out of ignorance—the Jerusalem Committee must move.

Those who had said that Jerusalem must be the capital, all of it, the permanent capital of Israel, I am sure said it out of ignorance, believing the problem of Jerusalem was the problem of the Arabs and Israel. We must rectify the distortion—dot the i's and show those people that they had perhaps made a geographical, geostrategic, and political mistake, because they had mixed ideas about Arabs living in one area with the issue of race and the question of creed that concerns people other than the Arabs from Asia, Africa, and Europe.

It even led those who adopted their resolutions or recommendations to make a mistake even as far as the Christians themselves were concerned. With these resolutions or recommendations they disregarded even the rights of the Christians who were in the majority at the

meetings from where this idea—to make Jerusalem the permanent and entire capital of Israel—originated.

Dear brothers, we all have to (?resist), fight, and endeavor persuasively and obviously to take action. We have to show the world and explain to those who do not know—and there are probably more ignorant people than we think—that in the world we live in there are many officials who do not know their geography. We must clear up matters and we must form—and this will be, I believe, one of the tasks assigned to our committees—committees of messengers whom we entrust with explaining the cause of Jerusalem and its geostrategic and geopolitical implications. We must explain this issue and put it forward before the eyes of all those who think that they can, with the stroke of a pen, bypass history and ignore the special relations existing between all the revealed religions and this city, Jerusalem, dear to us all. [passage omitted]

The PLO has now recognized the two resolutions and it has entered this battle with all its strength. The wise among them and the responsible were faced with criticisms and they confronted and faced up to the extremists. The decision to recognize Resolutions 242 and 338 was truly a brave and responsible action.

Here we are still awaiting the fulfilment of the promises made to them: once they recognize Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO would be treated differently, its voice would be heard differently—it would have its weight and its voice would have a different weight. As people say today, and this has become a common expression: The ball is now in their court. It is not in our court, we as Arabs and as Muslims. Those who made promises should be faithful to their promises. We should not veer from the path of wisdom, discernment, patience or perseverance. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, ICO Leader Meet

LD0804055290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] ICO Secretary General, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, met Palestinian president 'Arafat in Rabat today on the sidelines of the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which is to continue this evening. 'Arafat was accompanied by Mahmud Darwish, member of the PLO Executive Committee, Abu-Marwan, the ambassador of Palestine to Rabat, and Hakam Bal'awi, the ambassador of Palestine to Tunis.

An official ICO spokesman stated that this meeting, which lasted an hour and a half, was devoted to the discussion of the developments of the Palestinian cause and to the latest moves made by the Palestinian president on the European arena in addition to the proceedings of the Jerusalem Committee emergency session which opened in Rabat yesterday under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. On the occasion both sides stressed the necessity to mobilize the resources of all Muslims in the world to face the dangers which threaten Jerusalem in the face of the influx of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine. Dr. Hamid al Ghabid reiterated the ICO's support for the struggle and the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people until the final triumph is achieved by establishing the independent state of Palestine with Holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Committee Issues Statement

LD0804101890 Rabat Domestic Servie in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee ended at the Royal Palace in Rabat last night under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, the chairman of the committee, and in the presence of the head of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

The resolu The statement, after having dealt with the topics which had been examined including the organized mass relocation and the settlement of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, the Golan, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, reviewed the 17 resolutions which were issued by the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, left Rabat last night after having taken part at the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which was chaired by King Hassan II, may God grant him victory. [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, also left Rabat last night. [passage omitted]

Committee Resolutions Cited

LD0804151990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee ended at the Royal Palace in Rabat last night under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

The committee's final meeting was characterized by the royal speech made by His Highness King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, and the reading of the Jerusalem Committee's final statement which included a number of important resolutions dealing in particular with the latest development resulting from the mass relocation of the Soviet Jews and its repercussions on the Palestinian problem.

The Jerusalem Committee saluted the Palestinian people's struggle and expressed its pride in its blessed victories. It stressed, furthermore, that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories and it is the capital of the state of Palestine. It called upon the U.S. Congress to repeal its recent decision which disregards Arab rights and challenges the Islamic nation's feelings.

The committee condemned the U.S. Congress decision as well as the Israeli wanton practices against [Arab] citizens in occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the policy of more settlements. It urged, furthermore, that the occupied Palestinian regions should be put under international auspices as a prelude for bringing about a just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Committee Statement Reported

LD0904050490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1508 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] 8 April, SPA—[passage omitted] Following is the text of the Jerusalem Committee's statement:

The Jerusalem Committee held its 12th session in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco from 6 to 7 April 1990, under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco. Head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, delegations of the committee's member-countries—with the exception of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and the secretary-general of the ICO, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, attended the session. The committee heard a comprehensive instructive speech with which His Majesty King Hassan II opened the meeting. He emphasized in it the danger of the circumstances that the Islamic world was currently experiencing. After His Majesty pointed out that the Jerusalem Committee was convening in critical circumstances, he stressed that the three divine religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) have been fraternal and that those who are now dominating want to impose a de facto state, which we reject, particularly since emigrants who are not Semitic are being implanted in Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories.

After His Majesty explained that the enemy, in its stupidity, built with its own hand a political, not ideological, meeting between the Arab-Israeli problem and between the Israeli-Islamic problem, he added that those who have said that Jerusalem must remain a permanent capital of Israel have said this out of ignorance, believing the Jerusalem problem is a problem between only Arabs and Israelis. We must put this deviation right to show them they may have made a geographic, geostrategic and political mistake, because the issue is also an ideological one which concerns people other than the Arabs, and it also concerns the rights of Christians.

His Majesty said the committee, which constitutes a meeting point for Arab and Islamic moves, should send out emissaries to explain the Jerusalem issue and its geostrategic and geopolitical implications, and to stress to us all what brings all the divine religions and the beloved city of Jerusalem together. His Majesty concluded his speech by saying that as members of the Jerusalem committee, our patience has run out. Enough of the disdain of the Muslim's humanitarian values. We Muslims are peaceful. The name of our religion, Islam, comes from peace [salam], but we are not prepared to become capitulators [mustaslimin].

His majesty then called on the committee to be more firm in its recommendations than previously, because the matter concerned our entity as Muslims as much as it concerned our future as a human group which has given humanity a great deal and wants to give others a great deal for the good of human beings as a whole, without prejudice.

The struggler Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee then spoke. He thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for his generous gesture of inviting the Jerusalem Committee to convene under these difficult circumstances when the fate of the Palestinian people was under threat. He alerted to the plot which aimed at vacating Palestine of Palestinians by incitement or militarily, of which the enemy's leaders spoke. He said the Zionist enemy had over 220 nuclear warheads and bacteriological and chemical weapons. The use of these weapons has led to 6,200 miscarriages for Palestinian women, in addition to other permanent disabilities.

President 'Arafat talked about the intensive emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, East Europe, and Ethiopia and said 3 million new Jews were expected to arrive in the Zionist entity with the implication that a new Israel would be established. He said the emigration was in violation of the principles of human rights, because the emigrant was traveling under coercion, without a passport, and after having been stripped of his citizenship and right to return to his original homeland. This emigration had come after the United States had imposed restrictions on the entry of Jews and facilitated the entry of Palestinians, which indicated the existence of a big international conspiracy that threatened Palestine and the Arab and Islamic nations.

His excellency then talked about the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories; he said that it had managed to bring an Israeli Government down for the first time in the history of Israel. He declard that the intifadah will continue until the end of Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

The committee studied the issue of the organized mass emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, occupied Golan, and other occupied Arab territories, and their settlement there. It noted that as the world in the last part of this century was marking the liquidation of the last forms of colonialism and peoples were gaining independence, it was also witnessing the exposure of the Palestinian people to another campaign of the most ferocious kind of colonialism, which was not confined to occupation and colonization, but it also deported the original inhabitants, made them homeless, and denied their right to live on and return to their land.

The committee reviewed the Islamic and international stances and regarded the operation of organized mass immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, the occupied Golan, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories and their settlement in these areas as being the

result of an international Zionist plan prepared in advance and manifested in throwing wide open the door of immigration to Soviet Jews and closing the European gathering centers, exercising pressures, opening direct air and sea routes with Israel, and the ensuing accompaniment in terms of restrictions imposed in the United States and other states on accepting Jewish immigrants.

It also regarded the immigration of Soviet Jews and the fact that they have been denied the right to choose the country they want to go to and their compulsory settlement in the occupied Palestinian land as being a violation of the principles of human rights and the Helsinki agreement and the fourth Geneva Accord of 1949, particularly Article 49. In this connection the committee noted the sides' demanding commitment to the texts of the International Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights ignoring the fact that these two agreements also stipulate the right to return and ignore the Palestinian people's right to exercise this right. Israel demands the Jewish immigration and prevents the return of the Palestinian refugees to their occupied land and refuses even to acknowledge to these refugees the principle of their right to return, as a result of the racist nature of the laws on which the Zionist entity is founded such as the Law of Return and the Nationality Law.

Intent on backing the Zionist plan and challenging the Security Council and UN resolutions concerning noble Jerusalem, the United States is waging a wide campaign to annul the UNGA resolution of 1975 considering Zionism a form of racism.

The committee recalls that the right to immigrate stipulated in international charters and laws does not rise to the right of man to hold on to his land and to live in peace and security or the right to return to his homeland. Consequently, the plan for forcing the Soviet Jews to immigrate will lead to the forcible collective driving of the Palestinians and other Arabs from their land. The committee also reminds that the operation of driving [Soviet Jews] to immigrate could lead to a tragic population explosion as a result of unnatural demographic growth on a narrow land with limited resources, and holds in its folds a latent danger to the whole region, and consequently to world peace and security. Ending Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories is the sole means of giving an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. This is a responsibility which rests on the shoulders of the international community, and in particular the five permanent members of the Security Council, foremost, the United States, which can do much in this context.

While following with great concern the latest developments of continuing mass emigration of Soviet Jews and its negative repercussions on the Palestinian problem, the Jerusalem Committee considers this a difficult obstacle to the peace process and as pushing the region toward a fresh war that would subject international security and peace to danger.

For this reason the Jerusalem Committee:

—1. salutes the struggle of the Palestinian people, and expresses its pride at its blessed intifadah. It urges all the ICO member-states to continue support for its jihad and to increase their solidarity with, and backing for, its just and legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation until it has realized all its objectives of freedom and independence; —2. believes that the Arab city of Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian lands, that it is the capital of the state of Palestine, and that any transgression on its legal status is a blatant violation of international conventions, laws, and resoltuions.

In this respect, the Jerusalem Committee strongly condemns the recent decision of the U.S. Congress, which goes against international law, the UN resolutions, and the official U.S. positions regarding the holy city. The committee is asking it to rescind this decision, which ignores Arab rights and challenges the feelings of the Islamic nation; —3. strongly condemns the continuation of the savage Zionist practices against the citizens in the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands in the form of displacement, deportation, mass arrests, killing of women and children, demolition of houses, confiscation of lands and properties, and desecration of the sacred places. The committee urges the international organizations to intervene and stop these inhuman acts, which are regarded as a flagrant violation of the human rights of the Palestinians; —4. strongly condemns the continuation of the settlement policy and the settling of Soviet immigrants in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the City of Jerusalem, and regards all settlements built on the occupied land as being null and void and contravene international legitimacy; —5. demands the placing of the occupied Palestinian areas under temporary international supervision as prelude to the realization of just and comprehensive peace in the region; —6. calls on the Soviet Government, in harmony of the latter's attitude which generally speaking support the Palestinian issue:

1. To ban the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel for the following reasons:

a. The immigration constitutes a violation of the international laws, charters, and resolutions.

b. Israel refuses to recognize the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their land in accordance with the right to return stipulated in the International Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights, and the UN resolutions related to the right of return.

c. It (?kills) the peace process in the region and encourages the Zionist entity to pursue a policy of expansion, settlement, and aggression.

d. This immigration contravenes the immigrant's freedom to choose the country in which he wants to settle, in light of the U.S. restrictions imposed on the entry of Jewish immigrants into the United States and the closing down of their gathering centers in Europe to force them directly toward occupied Palestine.

e. Israel is refusing to pledge not to resettle the Soviet emigrants in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem.

2. Asks the Soviet Union not to cancel the citizenship of any emigrant who leaves his country and to allow him to keep his passport to enable him to return to his country of origin if he so wishes; —7. asks the U.S. Government, in harmony with its declared positions against resettlement in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, to act to prevent the resettling of emigrants in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, to prevent building settlements in these lands, and to secure the removal of settlements already built there in accordance with the UN resolutions in this connection. The committee urges the U.S. Government to assume its responsibilities through the following measures:

a. Lift the restrictions it had imposed on the entry of Jewish emigrants into the United States.
b. Stop the assistance the U.S. Administration gives to the Israeli Government to support the Israeli settlements.
c. Impose restrictions on the donation campaigns in the United States, including the tax exemption on the funds destined for backing settlements projects in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands;

—8. appeals to the EEC member-states in line with the latter's distinguished stance vis-a-vis the Palestinian question:

a. To condense contacts to make Israel halt the Israeli settlement and the settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian land in implementation of the international agreements on human rights and all related international resolutions.
b. To permit those immigrants wishing to reside in any European state to do so in accordance with the Helsinki accords.
c. To reopen the European gathering centers that provide immigrants with the opportunity choose the destination they wish; —9. calls on the member-states of the ICO effectively intercede with the world's influential powers to show the dangerous negative effects resulting from the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and to check that with all possible means, and calls on the member-states to work for the encouragement of the return of Jews from occupied Palestine to their countries of origin; —10. demands the UN Security Council set up an international monitoring commission to supervise and monitor the nonsettlement in the occupied Palestinian land, including Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, in implementation of UN resolutions; —11. decides to form an official delegation under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II to visit the UN Security Council permanent member-states to explain the dimensions and dangers of the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands and to give momentum to the peace efforts in the Middle East; —12. requests its chairman, His Majesty King Hassan II, to continue his fruitful contacts with his holiness the pope to support the Palestinian people and their just cause, and to strive to halt the dangerous Israeli violations manifested in deliberately continuing the attempts to Judaize Palestine and change the archeological, cultural, and architectural Islamic and Christian features of Jerusalem; —13. decides to contact the UN secretary general and calls on him to make a special and concentrated effort to realize tangible progress in the efforts of peace in the Middle East, a matter that will lead to halting the Zionist practices against the sons of the Palestinian people and the banning of the operation of mass immigration of Soviet Jews and their settlement in Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands; —14. calls for speeding up the convening of the international conference on peace in the Middle East under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent member-states of the UN Security Council and all the sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, equally. It reaffirms that the Middle East will not witness peace and stability unless the Palestinian question—the Muslims' number one issue and the core of the Middle East conflict—is comprehensively and justly solved to guarantee that the Palestinians regains their inalienable national rights including their right to return to their land, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state in Palestine with its capital being the holy city of Jerusalem under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO; —15. works for convening an Islamic-Christian meeting with the participation of the Vatican, Eastern churches, and other churches to maintain the identity of Jerusalem, its religious and historical nature, and its demographic state. —16. calls on the Islamic media to intensify media campaigns to expose the process of the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, East Europe, and other countries to occupied Palestine; —17. urges parliamentary bodies and nongovernmental organizations in member-countries to intensify contacts with their counterparts in various countries of the world to explain the implications and dangers of the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and its threat to peace in the Middle East.

At the conclusion of its proceedings, the committee expressed its deep appreciation of and great gratitude to its chairman His Majesty King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco for the efforts he has made, and is still making, at Arab, Islamic, and international levels, to support the Palestinian issue and holy Jerusalem, and for his generous invitation for convening this new session in the capital of his realm, Rabat. It also expressed its sincere thanks and great appreciation to his majesty's government and to the brotherly Moroccan people for the hospitality and welcome accorded to the delegation.

Arab Committee on Lebanon Issues Statement

LD0804155590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1348 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat, 8 April SPA—The foreign ministers of the member-countries of the higher Arab tripartite committee for the settling of the Lebanese crisis issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following the directives of the leaders of the higher Arab tripartite committee, the foreign ministers of the member-countries of the higher Arab tripartite committee met in Rabat in the Kingdom of Morocco, in the presence of Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the committee's envoy to Lebanon, in the period between 5 and 7 April and examined the situation on the Lebanese arena in light of the collective and individual contacts they held to discuss the Lebanese crisis. A comprehensive review was made during those meetings of the steps and measures which had been carried out in Lebanon since signing the document of national concord which had been reached during the meetings of the Lebanese members of parliament in al-Ta'if under the auspices of the higher Arab tripartite committee. The obstacles to implementing that document and the endeavors exerted at an Arab and international level to overcome those obstacles were also reviewed.

An elaborate study was made of the dangers jeopardizing the fate of Lebanon, its unity, and its existence because of the state of division which accompanied the phenomenon of rebellion and illegality, which during the recent period led to a destructive war in the east and the north of Beirut, which caused the destruction of the remnants of the state installations and infrastructures. This war was also behind a critically pessimistic state at the social and human levels, requiring the support of the legitimate authority urgently and efficiently to enable it to extend the state's sovereignty over all Lebanon and to save Lebanon from the dangers facing it.

The participants reiterated, in this context, their concern about the continuation of the tension and the occurance of repetitive explosions in the al-Tuffah area and in the southern quarter of the Lebanese capital. They also expressed their condemnation of the repeated attacks carried out by Israel on the Lebanese territories and their admiration of the steadfast citizens in the occupied Lebanese south who are courageously continuing their resistance against the Israeli occupation and the repetitive Zionist attacks on their lands.

The participants expressed their deep understanding of the bloody events taking place in Lebanon and their feeling for the Lebanese people's suffering. They stressed that mutual killing is not a solution to the Lebanese question and can only lead to making the Lebanese crisis more complicated and continuous, which will reflect negatively upon the unity of the state, the people, and the institutions, and hamper the process of salvation, concord, and peace. The higher Arab committee is trying to continue the peace process to end the tragedy and recover security, stability, and progress for Lebanon.

Despite the cruel conditions and ordeals facing Lebanon, the Lebanese people has expressed their attachment to their national unity, their determination to live together, and the solidarity of their sons and their mutual support in better or worse conditions. This has been shown in a moving way during the reception given by the Lebanese to their brothers who fled the horrors of war in the eastern region.

The participants also expressed their great regret for the artificial obstacles created before the march of peace and concord which was launched by laying down the national concord document, and warned against the dangers of the persistence of these obstacles. They stressed their support for the legitimate Lebanese authority and their full readiness to make whatever effort possible to end the Lebanese tragedy. In this context, the participants in the meeting reaffirmed their full and absolute support for legitimacy in Lebanon and repeated their commitment to continue their support for the march of peace and concord in Lebanon. They also repeated their commitment to offer every contribution to get Lebanon out of its calamity in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions and the statements issued by the tripartite committee.

While the participants urged the Lebanese citizens of all sects and affiliations to preserve the gains included in the national concord document issued by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if; to rally around legitimacy as the sole means for ending the security setbacks which have caused death and destruction and for ending setbacks to guarantees for the unity of the land, people, and institutions of Lebanon; and to consecrate its freedom, sovereignty and independence; they recorded with satisfaction the the Lebanese state beginning to extend its authority over the eastern region following the positive attitude declared by Dr. Samir Ja'ja' in his recognition of the Lebanese legitimacy, his support for the al-Ta'if agreement and his readiness to hand over the region under the control of the Lebanese Forces to the Lebanese Army led by General Emile Lahhud. They also expressed the hope that Lebanon would be able to extend its authority over what is remaining from the eastern region as soon as possible.

The ministerial committee has prepared a report to be submitted to the leaders of the tripartite Arab committee, containing several practical proposals for the confrontation of the coming stage at all the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels.

Foreign Ministers Comment on Israel, Iraq

NC0504172690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council member-states—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister

and foreign minister; Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian foreign minister; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni Arab Republic deputy prime minister and foreign minister—arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Amman where they concluded their meeting yesterday.

After a one-hour stopover at Cairo airport, Tariq 'Aziz and Marwan al-Qasim left for Morocco to attend the Jerusalem committee meetings scheduled to convene there under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco. Al-Iryani will leave Cairo later this evening.

Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Qasim made a statement to reporters at the airport. He stressed that there are basic fallacies behind the U.S. Congress decision considering Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He said that this decision is not binding and we must continue to (?clarify) these fallacies about Jerusalem's status.

In response to a question on the possibility of Peres forming an Israeli government, al-Qasim expressed his hope that Israel will demonstrate a positive attitude in line with the positive Palestinian approach that emphasizes the need for a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue which fulfills the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said: If Peres backs such an approach and can achieve such a peaceful settlement in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, this would be a good thing.

Asked about Syrian-Iraqi ties, al-Qasim said: We always proceed from the joint defense agreement and pan-Arab security as the basis of our dealings and not relations between one country and another. If any Arab country is endangered, it goes without saying that there will be a unified Arab stand.

Regarding the campaign against Iraq, al-Qasim said: We have heard a detailed report from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. We have also seen certain documents and it has become clear that this fraternal country is being subjected to a planned campagin to harm it. We believe that Iraq has a right to make progress in the political, economic, and security fields like any other country. He noted that what is taking place is considered to be a preparation for a premeditated Israeli aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. He stressed the need to stand by fraternal Iraq in this situation.

During his stopover at Cairo airport, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that the campaign to which Iraq is being subjected is premeditated and began some time ago. The campaign is taking several forms, including the issue of the spy of Iranian origin and British nationality as well as a commercial deal between an Iraqi establishment and Britian. He asserted that this campaign is intended to distort and defame Iraq to prepare for an aggression as happened in 1981, when the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which was designed for peaceful purposes, was struck. He said: During our meeting, we concluded that there are preparatory steps for Israeli aggression against Iraqi scientific and industrial installations. He noted that the progress achieved by Iraq in scientific and industrial areas worries Israel, which wants to limit scientific progress in all Arab countries.

'Aziz said: We have no doubt that Israel had intended to attack Iraq. President Saddam Husayn wanted to send a clear message to Israel that if it commits an act of aggression against Iraq, as it did in 1981, Iraq will retaliate and that it possesses the means to do so. He said that President Saddam Husayn affirmed that if the Israelis attacked Iraq, there is a possibility that the aggression would be nuclear. Iraq would then retaliate with a weapon that is proportionally equal to the Israeli nuclear weapon. In conclusion, he said that President Saddam Husayn's message is responsible and that those who sought to portray it otherwise are biased. He said: Military capabilities constitute a deterrent to aggression and are not a factor for igniting wars or making threats in the region. They are a shield to protect the Arab national security.

Algeria

Mouloud Hamouche on Alleged 'Misappropriation'

LD0904220890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In the national arena several facts and events are interacting in various directions and some of these events are taking on serious proportions, such as the $26 billion affair concerning the misappropriation of commissions obtained from dubious major deals. This affair and other issues were raised last night during five hours of discussion between Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche and a large number of journalists. Over to Rabah Zenati:

[Zenati] At El-Mithaq residence, Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, head of the government, met last night with representatives of the national press. The meeting was informal and was an occasion to exchange opinions and ideas on a number of national issues.

The first issue raised concerned over statements made by the former prime minister [Abdelhamid Brahimi] to the effect that $26 billion had been misappropriated in the form of bribes and commissions at the expense of the national economy over a 20-year period. In this respect, the reply given by the head of the government was frank and clear as he said: Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi should have been more precise in his statements to prove that he had good intentions and that he did not only want to undermine the people's march and cause confusion in everybody's mind—foremost the civil servants and managers whose integrity should not be doubted. The talk about bribery is not new and it makes it necessary to ask questions about the conditions of economic management which will help expose this disease in our society. The present government has chosen to follow the path of expurgation and total transparency and the evidence is that foremost in the program I presented before the National People's Assembly there are the various legislative texts on trade which I prepared in a few months. However, if bribery exists it cannot reach $26 billion and it cannot even reach $1 billion for the entire period of time mentioned by the former prime minister. Moreover, the government today encourages the creation of a parliamentary commission of inquiry so that the entire truth can be established in the framework of total legitimacy. The judiciary will also play its role if this is confirmed.

The economic aspect also led to many questions: price increases, shortages, activities by the middlemen, the drop in the citizen's purchasing power, wage increases, organization of the market, development of national production, improving the efficiency of the national economy, and improving management. To confront the middlemen, the head of the government said: We strove to encourage the producers to organize themselves so that they could be in charge of supply and distribution. We created the right conditions to enable them to do so, but the results are still poor and they remain unable to face up to the middlemen and speculators. If the situation continues, the government is seriously determined, despite the harm this can cause to the national economy, to protect the consumer in the future, even if the situation requires the import of strategic goods to compensate for the deficit in national production and to face up to the speculators. The head of the government added: Today, the way is open for competition in the public and private sectors. It is competition introduced by law and it must be practiced within the framework of the law.

On ways to manage enterprises and give them the necessary efficiency, the head of the government said: We are aiming to eliminate centralized management, which was the cause of the bankruptcy. The centralized management will be restricted to the state apparatus, the National People's Assembly, the judiciary, and the president of the republic. There were also interventions by the ministers concerned on ways to reorganize the national economy and trade in accordance with the new reforms required by the current situation in the country.

The preparations for municipal and provincial elections were also among the other issues raised by the journalists. Regarding the anarchy characterizing these preparations, the head of the government said: It is due to the old mentality which still exists and which cannot comprehend the political reforms. He added that we are not postponing the elections due on 12 June as requested by some political parties, and we do not have the capacity to do so because this would be contrary to the law. In this respect he commented by saying that aspiring to rule is a legitimate right, but it must be done in an orderly manner, starting from the grass roots and returning to the people. This applies to all the political parties, including the National Liberation Front, with a view to safeguarding democracy and maintaining social peace.

Mubarak Discusses Peace Process, Domestic Issues

NC0904161290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Apr 90

["Text" of interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT Chief Editor Mortimer Zuckerman and correspondents Richard Shithnof and Jordan Rebson (last two names as received) in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] Washington, 9 April (MENA)—[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Would it be possible for a new Israeli government to be formed with a narrow majority, particularly a Labor government? Would such a government be in a position to negotiate for peace?

[Mubarak] Look, I will not say anything about what is possible for the Israeli Labor Party or Likud Bloc. Nor will I say anything about narrow or large majorities. Still, I tell you now that we currently have a golden opportunity to establish peace. However, some Israelis are standing still. I want to note here that the idea of a Jordanian alternative is one that will complicate matters

more than ever before and again create problems between Egypt and Israel and all the Arab countries. If the alternative is Jordan, this will mean that the situation will become more dangerous.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Mr. President, it was assumed several years ago that Egypt and Jordan do not actually want an independent Palestinian state and that the ideal solution would be to incorporate it with Jordan. Does this still hold true?

[Mubarak] The Palestinians agreed during their recent meeting in Algiers to establish a state within a confederal union with Jordan. Personally I believe that this tendency is a good sign. A confederation would be more stable. However, let us not say more about this than we should. Let us not anticipate events.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] What about the demilitarization of the West Bank and the deployment of Israeli forces on the mountain slopes along the Jordan River?

[Mubarak] These matters can be arranged through negotiations. I think that this idea could be accepted.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] The Israelis have expressed concern that the Palestinian members of the negotiating team who will be chosen from Jerusalem will influence the city's status in the way they want and that a Palestinian delegation will, basically, be carrying 'Arafat's portrait, and in this way it will appear as if Israel were negotiating with the PLO.

[Mubarak] These are trivial matters. The basic goal on which we must keep our eyes is peace. It is not a question of whether or not we appear in a picture with 'Arafat. Let me tell you, however, that we will not move one step forward if we do not negotiate with the PLO.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] What about the recent Palestinian terrorist attacks, including the one on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Any Palestinian faction that wants to play down the importance of peace and the peace process or wants to place Yasir 'Arafat in an embarrassing position can do so in this way. Don't ever believe that, even if the negotiating process starts between the two sides, these factions will support it or go along with this trend.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Is Yasir 'Arafat not fully responsible for this organization?

[Mubarak] It is difficult to say that the PLO leadership sends groups to create problems and obstacles of some kind. However, 'Arafat is at times completely unaware of what is happening. We are dealing with a society that does not have all its members present and does not live in a single place or within a specific land, enabling a leader to impose his full control over it. The Palestinian people are dispersed. They are here in Egypt, in Libya, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and all the Arab countries. The Palestinians are earning a living in these countries. Some of them would not even want to leave the country in which they have spent most of their lives, even if a solution for the Palestinian problem were reached. So, do you believe that under these conditions people will listen 100 percent to Yasir 'Arafat's instructions?

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] But, Mr. President, this is the reason why the Israelis are saying that 'Arafat cannot perform this task.

[Mubarak] Look, there is not a single Palestinian leader in the PLO who can impose complete control over these situations. Whether you believe it or not, Yasir 'Arafat is the best man on the Palestinian side and in this entire situation.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Are there any signs from Syria that indicate a calming down? Could Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad be ready to join the peace process?

[Mubarak] I believe that there is a change in the Syrian stand. I also believe that Syria will in turn join the peace process if there is real progress.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] There is concern in the United States over chemical weapons in Iraq and Libya. There is also the same concern over Iraq's development of nuclear capabilities.

[Mubarak] Don't think or believe that Libya is producing chemical weapons on a large scale. If the Libyans are doing so, then this has been achieved with foreign help. Even in this case, it would be small and insignificant. As to Iraq, it has expressed its willingness to undergo international inspection, but on condition that this should apply to all the countries in the region, including Israel. I would like to say here that the Libyan president told me clearly that he, too, is willing to undergo international inspection.

However, neither you nor anyone else can give Israel the green light on the production of such weapons while denying it to the Arabs.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Mr. President, do you see any changes in Iran, and does Iran influence the Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt?

[Mubarak] I do not trust the Iranians. More than once they asked to restore diplomatic relations, but I turned down this request. As for the fundamentalists, we have some in Egypt, and we cannot say that the media have exaggerated in depicting this phenomenon. We know well where they are, what their names are, and how many there are. We are in full control as far as they are concerned.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Mr. President, will you permit the Muslim Brotherhood group to form its own political party?

[Mubarak] Our law does not permit the formation of religious political parties. For my part, I am not going to change the laws, because if I were to do this and permit the formation of a Muslim Brotherhood party then I would be compelled in the future to permit the formation of a Christian party. I do not want to create such problems. I am primarily concerned with building this state and developing it and not with the creation of conditions that would make the sons of this people fight each other.

[U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT] Egypt is badly in need of economic development. Some critics, not many, say that because of the government's increasing role, the IMF wants the abolition of the subsidy that the government provides to the people. Do you agree with this opinion, Mr. President?

[Mubarak] We are doing what we can to reduce the subsidy on certain commodities. You must remember that when I assumed my post everything was subsidized. It was easier then for man to go to the moon than to present the appropriate economic solutions for the problems concerning certain basic commodities, or even to increase the price of cigarettes by one piaster. I increased the price of the commodities which are not basic, including cigarettes. However, such measures cannot be taken suddenly under the prevailing economic conditions, particularly because we had some bad luck after the reduction in petroleum prices and the increase in world prices. I know the circumstances perfectly well . I also know the nature of the Egyptian people very well and appreciate the attitude of the simple worker and junior official. Therefore I cannot increase their burdens all at once without substantially increasing wages. The situation here is entirely different from what it is in other countries such as Poland, for example, where the people accept all kinds of reforms because they were unable to find food in the shops before. The situation here is entirely different, and I must deal with it in an appropriate gradual way, reforming wages after developing resources. Generally speaking, development is the only way to solve our economic problems.

Mahmud 'Abbas, Usamah al-Baz Comment on Talks

NC0904180590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—A session of talks was held at midday today between Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a Palestinian delegation comprising PLO Executive Committee Members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, Jamal al-Surani, and 'Abdallah Hurani; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed recent Middle East developments, current efforts to establish peace in the region, Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, and current developments in East Europe.

Mahmud 'Abbas, alias "Abu-Mazin," stated after the Palestinian delegation's meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that the Egyptian-Palestinian discussions dealt with current developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and future prospects after the formation of a new Israeli government.

He added that it is assumed that a tripartite meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state will take place after an Israeli government is formed. He explained that such a meeting was due to be held three or four months ago but did not take place because of the Israeli stand.

He said he believes that the Israeli officials are currently in favor of holding a tripartite meeting, to be followed by a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, in accordance with the plans that have been drawn up and agreed upon.

He added that the current campaign against the Arab nation must be redirected to give impetus to the peace process. He said that this means that talk about arms and war in the region must become talk about peace because, when peace is established, there will be absolutely no need for arms.

Abu-Mazin concluded his statement by emphasizing the need to hold Arab summit meetings at this stage.

The Palestinian delegation will continue its discussions with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Dr. al-Baz tomorrow, Tuesday.

In remarks following the meeting, Dr. Usamah al-Baz stated that the Arabs are peace seekers and do not want war or aggression because that is not in their interest. He said that the recent actions Egypt carried out met with total responsiveness from the Iraqi and Jordanian leaders and the various Arab capitals.

He added that Egyptian and Iraqi views are identical and that there is a united Arab position regarding willingness to establish peace and refraining from threats of war and aggression. He declared that the Arabs will not resort to force except in self-defense.

Al-Baz said he believes that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Iraq and Jordan was another step on the path of demonstrating to the world that the Arab quest for peace is in earnest and that all the Arab countries are seeking to establish peace and stability and reduce tensions. He added that not a single Arab country wishes to cause tension, provoke a crisis, or carry out an act of aggression.

Dr. al-Baz said he believes that the series of events in the Arab world demonstrate to the world the Arab nation's earnest wish to establish peace, security, and stability in the region.

Al-Baz asserted that Egypt is willing to hold the tripartite meeting as soon as possible and has no objection to convening this meeting within a week or 10 days. He noted that the aim is to begin a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as part of the general pan-Arab objective of attaining a comprehensive agreement between Israel and all the Arab parties concerned.

Asked whether the peace plan will proceed according to Shamir's proposals, despite his absence from the arena, Dr. al-Baz replied: We do not work on the basis of a plan attributed to a specific person, but on the basis of thinking of all the steps that could be taken in preparation for an international peace conference. This will be the acceptable framework for achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, he asserted. He added: Egypt believes that the opportunity for establishing a real and serious dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis will improve in the near future. More sectors within Israeli public opinion and within Jewish and non-Jewish groupings in the outside world believe more than ever before that the road to peace and the defusing of the situation lies in negotiations. They also believe that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will be the start of a more comprehensive process that will include the other Arab parties concerned with the conflict, with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon at the forefront, he stated.

Al-Baz went on to say: We are in touch with the Palestinian brothers all the time. A tripartite meeting is so far slated to be held to prepare for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. We still hope to hold the meeting and start the dialogue since the latter would be the start of a major relaxation in the problem. He added: More cannot be asked of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, because they have taken a conscious stand based on the rejection of occupation and have prepared for and welcomed the establishment of peace.

Dr. al-Baz stressed that all the Arab parties, Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the European countries must commit themselves to ensuring that what is happening in other parts of the world—reduction in tension, reduction in the arms race, and directing the resources of the various parties toward peaceful construction—also happens in the Middle East.

He also stressed that there is now an Arab stand at a high level of unity and that the general framework for this unity is the minimum level of agreement to confront these issues.

Al-Baz also said that Egypt is working with the Palestinians and the other Arab brothers to shape a united Arab stand in order to confront the other parties. He also noted that Egypt is playing another role; namely, that of conveying the Palestinian stands to the United States and other influential international parties. He said: Our stand here is not that of a postman. We do not only convey, but help shape, coordinate, support, and make demands, because in the end we have an interest in seeing the peace process expand and its effects spread to the Palestinian and other Arab territories.

Mubarak Phones Saddam, Makes Appointment for Dole

NC1004112490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today. During the conversation, an appointment was made for a meeting between the Iraqi president and a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator Robert Dole in Baghdad on Thursday, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole said after meeting President Mubarak today. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic Foreign Minister Departs

NC0504184190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, left Cairo on his way back to his country following a brief several-hour visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Islamic Groups' Clash With Security Forces in Suez

JN1004110590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Apr 90 p 1

[By Fikriyah Ahmad]

[Text] Violent clashes took place yesterday in Hayy al-Arba'in quarter of Suez between Islamic groups and security forces. Members of these groups had tried to conceal themselves inside al-Tawwabin Mosque until the end of the month of Ramdan. The security forces used tear gas to disperse them. The groups confronted the security forces with hand weapons. Four members of the Islamic groups and three men of the security forces were injured. The casualties were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Major General Fikri Shabanih, director of public security in Suez, said he was informed by the authorities in the Awqaf Department in Suez that some members of the Islamic groups had seized the mosque and refused to leave. The security forces were forced to clash with the Islamic groups. A large number of pocket knives and other knives were found in their possession. They tried to use these knives against the security forces.

The director claimed that the security forces did not open fire or use tear gas. The injured were Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir, coffee maker; Abu-al-Majd 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-al-Majd, a student; Ahmad Mustafa Hasan, a student; and Mustafa Ibrahim Ibrahim, unemployed.

Palestinian Women Protest Barring of Visitors

JN1004111090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The Palestinian Womens Federation in Cairo has decided to freeze its activities pending an explanation from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry of why 12 leading Palestinian women from the occupied territory were barred entry at Cairo Airport and asked to leave the country.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Amal 'Uthman, minister of social insurance, had received memos from Palestinian women's organizations in the occupied territory protesting the Egyptian security authorities' action in barring entry to 12 Palestinian women who were invited to attend a symposium organized by the Palestinian Womens Federation and patronized by Mrs. Suzan Mubarak, wife of the Egyptian president, under the slogan "The Palestinian Woman—Present and Future".

The women barred entry at Cairo Airport included Rim al-Tarazi, Nahlah al-'Asali, Lawahiz 'Abd-al-Hadi, Zahrah al-Qawasimi, Maha Ghannam, and Suzan 'Awwad.

A Palestinian memo was also circulated in the Arab countries protesting the Egyptian action in barring the Palestinian women from attending the symposium without giving any reason.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Student Revolt Speech

LD0804143790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Speech by President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the student revolt; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Hello, best wishes. We meet today on a very important occasion: the commemoration of the 7 April anniversary of the students revolution. We should draw the results and learned lessons from this popular revolutionary march. We should do this, and we must benefit from the renewal of this anniversary to renew the struggle and the revolutionary action, the development of the Jamahiriyah, the deep-rooting of people's authority, and the building of progress, power, and advancement. We must believe in our ability to face difficulties and to overcome them.

Almost all of us know the background which led to this revolution, the anniversary of which we are commemorating today: the students' revolution. This was in 1976 and now we are in an international situation which enables us to talk more than at any other time about the details of the students' revolution on 7 April.

At that time we launched claims against the corrupt right wing, resistance to it, and its toppling because it tried to obstruct the march of the revolution. I say frankly that during the seventies and even during the students' revolution, the group which opposed the march of the revolution opposed it with despair, without any hope of achieving any success. The most it achieved were incidents of limited disturbance.

Then, there was the group which opposed and protested against the total mass mobilization when general military training was announced, and the Revolution Command Council decided, before the advent of people's authority, to train students—who are now lecturers and doctors thanks to God—in weaponry.

The next year a reactionary force, allied secretly with Zionism and publicly with imperialism, attacked Libya, the revolution. That is to say, Sadat launched an open military attack against the Libyan revolution in 1977. He recognized in 1977 so-called Israel.

In the same year that he [President Sadat] attacked Libya, he announced his recognition of what is called the state of Israel. This means that there was a Zionist-reactionary agreement along our borders against the revolution. As long as Zionist and reactionary forces form secret alliances to attack the revolution, then the revolution will endanger them and benefit those carrying out [the revolution]. Had the revolution been detrimental to us, reactionary forces would not have formed a secret alliance with Zionism against it.

Thus, Zionism had animosity against the revolution and formed this alliance which carried out the attack. This means that the revolution is dangerous to those enemies and it is in our interest to carry out the revolution, to see it through and to make it successful. [passage omitted]

When enemies of the revolution were hatching schemes against the revolution, a conspiracy against the revolution emerged inside [Libya]. It took forms which considered to be exposed were wicked ones for the rest of the innocent students. [sentence as heard] [The conspirators] decided to enlist students for general military training, as a pretext to incite students—they said it was anti-knowledge. Who was right? The revolution's decision or the stance taken by such a group? Whose name I am going to mention later?

Today's international situation allows us, more than ever before to mention its [the conspirator's] name. It is clear today that the revolution's plan was based upon correct data. In 1976, the year in which the students' revolution was carried out and in which a blow was dealt to the decayed reactionary right, a plan was being drawn to hit the revolution. Shortly afterwards there was an attack against us.

Thus, the decision to implement the general military training was a necessary one. Even if there has been no revolution, as soon as there is a military attack on your

family, you must defend your house. They incite students against the general military training. Reactionary forces mobilized at that time Libyan students studying in Egypt, the U.S., and in other countries who were against the revolution. Authorities took measures to stop their grants because they had joined the enemy. The Libyan people were not prepared to pay from their budget grants and salaries to students who joined ranks with America and Sadat. And this was the right decision.

This group took advantage of this decision too; they said students grants were cut off—as if they were really cut off from all students. When they were arrested, they admitted that they had been fishing in troubled waters! Those were serious decisions and transformations; they were trying to abort the revolution and stir trouble for it because they did not need a pan-Arab revolution like this one—a unionist revolution. We asked them what they wanted. They said we wanted a revolution with a Leninist-Marxist analysis. In reality, the group which had stood against the revolution until 7 April, when it was toppled by the students revolution, was the communist group. As I said before we can mention this today because communism had declared its bankruptcy.

It does not mean, however, that capitalism has come out on top. No, it was because communism was merely a reaction to capitalism. It has announced its bankruptcy and capitalism's turn will undoubtedly come, too. Those who really stood and conspired with foreigners, even allied themselves with their opponents; that is, that era's Marxist-Leninists formed alliances with America's agents and with Arab reactionaries. Why? Because they had a common goal, which was toppling the revolution. Reactionary forces wanted to see the revolution toppled, imperialism wanted to see the revolution toppled, and Marxism-Leninism wanted to see the revolution toppled. Within this framework they formed an alliance.

This is what happened then. Death sentences were passed and executions of communists were carried out during the students' revolution on 7 April and afterwards on a number of other occasions. You remember that executions were carried out years ago on 7 April by students and through students courts, which were held at educational institutions, on some reactionaries and on communists—they were members of the Muslim brotherhood and other corrupted and dirty groups.

Why? It was in order to reaffirm what I had said: They were all in a dirty alliance; that is, the communists and the Muslim brothers were in the same alliance against the revolution. Communists were behind the agents of America, behind the Muslim brothers, and behind local agents, and formed an alliance against the revolution because the latter means the establishment of the people's authority—the authority of toiling people, of students, of workers, and farmers.

It means also that this nation should unite under the banner of pan-Arabism. And Islam should be free from charlatanry and sects. All this shows the principles of their policies. They were based upon demagogy, taking advantage of the Jamahir, charlatanry, distortion of the Koran, and money from America for the Muslim brothers. Among the communists' main concepts is to deal a blow to pan-Arabism and Islam. It asserted that they were the faces of the same coin, the Arab nation: Islam is its soul and pan-Arabism is its body. They consider this as [word indistinct] for their plan and for their studies of the books of Engels, Lenin, and Marx.

Everyone should remember that since the first day of the revolution, we all tried to stand against communism. They [the communists] were happy; they said the army had toppled the monarchy and had evacuated foreign bases and therefore had made our task easier to turn this event, which they considered as a coup d'etat, into a Leninist-Marxist revolution. [Words indistinct] they were eliminated on 7 April, as is known.

Finally, all our assertions and analyses which we have put forward to explain such a theory were 100 percent right. Our analyses were right. We told them the Jamahir will rebel against Leninism and Marxism. They said it was impossible, the whole world will one day be Leninist and Marxist. Anyone who is not Leninist-Marxist is like someone trying to plough the sea. The revolution is based upon pan-Arabism; pan-Arabism is reactionary. Religion is the opium of the people. There is only scientific socialism and heresy. There should be no pan-Arabism; only internationalism is valid, and the communist bloc: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania.

We told them those peoples whom you call Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, etc. are peoples whose economic and political policies are imposed by the Red Army, which has been since WWII in the capitals of those countries. The stupid Libyan communist said no. This is communism and red will one day be the color of the whole world. We told them there is no communism in Hungary. I had personally visited Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. I had visited all those countries and did a study on them. I told them there is no communism. [passage indistinct]. Communism should be as Marx said: to each according to his needs and from each according to his ability. [Words indistinct] but it is impossible to have a true communist.

This is a Platonic theory and it is contrary to the Marxist theory, which claims to be a scientific theory. The idea of creating an ideal man is a Platonic one. I mean there is a contradiction. How come they can say our theory is a scientific one when the latter is against science? How can you have an ideal man who would work 10, reliquish his right to nine, take only one, and allow someone else to take nine because he can only work one but needs nine? [sentence as heard] Suppose it is myself and I am working for him. This is Platonic and will not be achieved.

We told them this is a political regime which was imposed by the Russian Army and was imposed by

Stalin on these countries with iron and fire. They said: You are talking nonsense, you are reactionaries—communism has prevailed in half of the globe in the East and will prevail in the West. We told them that nationalism was the motivating power of history. They said no: Economy is the motivating power of history.

We said in the economy within one people, its groups are in conflict, the sons of the one people fight for wealth and consequently wealth must go to the members of the people, wealth must be distributed among them equally. [sentence as heard] They said no, history is made by economic struggle. We said history is made by nationalist struggle and sometimes by religious struggle. [passage omitted]

We told them that communists at the beginning of the seventies and until 7 April, like today... [changes thought] we told them that nationalism is the basis for nationalist struggle and draws the map of the world, and abandoning nationalism means jumping in the air. They said no, nationalism is reactionary and will end. Communists in Libya were hostile to the unionist call which was [word indistinct] by the Fatah revolution and the pan-Arab call of the Arab nation and said: There is no Arab unity, there is a workers' unity. Workers of the world unite!

We said: Workers of the world become liberated; liberated from wages and from the domination of exploitation. They said: Workers of the world unite. We said this is a myth. Why do China and Russia not unite? Each one is against the other. There are one million soldiers on the Mongolian border. The Chinese complained to me. I told them to abandon these confrontations and reach an understanding against imperialism. They asked: who stationed a million soldiers and missiles first? Where is Marxism-Leninism? What has it got to do with Marxism? There is a yellow race and a white race. This is Chinese nationalism and that is Russian nationalism. It is a nationalist struggle.

Suddenly the red blanket is removed and the naked truth emerges and confirms all that we have struggled for and said—that nationalism is the basis, every nation must unite, workers must become liberated, religion is the spirit of every nation, communism cannot be achieved, and Marxism-Leninism is a long road and the masses will rebel against it halfway through. Indeed, the masses rebelled. They asked: Where are we going? [passage omitted]

They said that the proletariat triumphed and a communist party emerged. This party ruled and established a proletariat-socialist state to administer public wealth on behalf of the people in order to provide production and achieve communism—and then to each according to his need and from each according to ability. We told them that this world of millions cannot provide. Production cannot be maintained until communism is achieved. [passage omitted] They said: You are reactionaries, nationalists, militarists, bourgeois, patriots; you do not understand. We understand the ideology. We understand Marxism—it is a science of interpreting life. They fought with ignorance and stupidity. They could not understand.

They were really intoxicated [word indistinct], one, two, three, four, the world will become Red. They said the world will become Red. After it is [word indistinct] it will become Red. Now it is a pity that the effort we made and those made by these Libyan communists and those allied to them from abroad, in those years from the beginning of the revolution until their fall, were lost. It became clear that they were really ploughing the sea and running after a fairy tale and their theory was a fairy tale and their goals were drifting clouds and they were deceived, simple-minded and naive.

This is (?not what I say), this is what the scholars of communism in the world say now. Gorbachev, who leads this bloc declares this now. All of them said: (?We are wrong.)

Cords were put around the necks of statues of Lenin and Marx and were hung, raised, and thrown from all the squares—from Ethiopia to East Germany. The communist has become now a bandit and an outlaw and should be killed because he is an enemy of democracy, because he changes history—he decieves people and falsifies history. He disavows nationalism, religion, these realities and the freedom of all the people and imposes party dictatorship. It is a pity that those who were in prison and those who were executed... it is a pity that they were killed, we wish they were still alive so that they would say: We died for nothing.

However, I am now sympathetic, and no doubt you all are, with the Soviet Union, and we pray every day that God will help it to stand on its feet. We are also sympathetic with those poor people in Eastern Europe. I got Arab communist parties together, offered them support, asked them not to despair or commit suicide, but to join the Arab nationalist revolutionary movement. I got them together twice in the past two months. I am now supporting these groups, which have in fact collapsed, to help them to stand fast, at least in their last line of defense. This is not for the love of communism. No, it is so that they would stay, and in the end struggle against imperialism.

I am sympathetic with the Soviet Union now, because the defeat of the Soviet Union is a victory of one kind or another for U.S. imperialism. I am in touch with world leaders and their political activities. Even those whom I believed to be against the Soviet Union, and they themselves would say that they are, are actually afraid and they are saying, "May God help the Soviet Union to organize itself quickly, so that the United States will not have the opportunity to behave as it wishes in the world." [passage omitted]

In fact, it would be in our interest if the Soviet Union does not fall and is not defeated, and it must remain strong as a world force to deter America. However, if this

does not materialize, we will work for the creation of an international deterrent. Naturally, this will be set up and life will not stop, and it would not be the end of history, as the short-sighted might say. History has no end in the world. However, the new confrontation may be between all the peoples and imperialism. Russia, the Soviet Union, would not be necessary. The East Bloc would not be necessary.

Whatever happens to the Soviet Union, whether appeals for it are responded to or not and whether our God would help it to stand on its feet or not, the confrontation will be between the forces of the peoples on earth and their enemy who wants to dominate, colonize, encroach, or become superior. It will not be the first time that those who encroach—the arrogant, the tyrants and those who go beyond acceptable limits—fall before the struggle of peoples, whom they have not considered. In fact all tyrants have fallen and the people have triumphed. The United States now represents tyranny, but the peoples will confront it, not necessarily with the Soviet Union. Maybe the opportunity to defeat the United States would be greater if a popular front is set up to include the people of the Soviet Union; or just to include the Russian people, never mind the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union might finish. All the republics might become independent on a nationalist basis, and the nationalist struggle has begun, according to the theory of the Green Book. Its prophesies, which are based on history and not on someone's imagination, are coming true. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, communism was a direct enemy of the Libyan revolution because the Libyan revolution propogated nationalist and Islamic doctrines, and they [communists] did not like that. They thought that the monarchy was condemned for metaphysical demagogy and theocracy. Consequently, if it fell at the hands of a rival, that rival was bound to be its opposite—atheist and secularist. However, we would say that what existed in Libya was theocracy and not religious. It was charlatanism, exploitation, and disdain of the Libyans' minds by the extinct Senousi family in order to impose its hegemony and that of its colonialist masters, who imposed them on the Libyan people. This did not make us turn away from our religion. We overthrew it but we reinstated true Islam. Arab nationalism emerged, but they thought that coup or revolution would only lead to the emergence of a Libyan patriotic movement which had nothing to do with Arab nationalism. When we stressed that it was part of Arab nationalism, they stood against it. Now, everyone of us or each of our families who have lost someone through execution, imprisonment or some other way, remembers this story, these events. Those people did injustice to themselves and stood against the revolution under unfounded pretexts. Now, reality and developments in a short period of time, in less than two decades, have confirmed that they were wrong and that the revolution was right. Insofar as the imposition of general military training is concerned, you have witnessed the battles which were forced on us.

If we told you that the Americans are about to attack our homes, they would say that is a lie; you only want to exploit us, to train us to use weapons, to form militias, an army, or parades, but, there you are. America has attacked your homes! You said: By God, that is right! It has become a matter of self-defense. On the night of the raid everyone wished that he had a [word indistinct] antiaircraft machine gun—that he was standing on the roof of his house and fighting. That was the necessary requirement on that night: self-defense!

Thus, the general military training of all Libyans, men and women, was a correct, strategic, historical move which deserves appreciation and respect; it deserves to be marked as a landmark in the struggle of a people. However, ignorant Libyan communists opposed this move! They fell! Generally, although our current stance is sympathetic to communism, the latter was in fact antagonistic towards us, and it has now fallen! What can we say? On the one hand, we say: Thank God that we have eliminated this opposition and discredited its theory; that reality and history have proved, at local and international level, that all its arguments that were used against the revolution were wrong and have failed! That is, the opposition has been defeated! From one angle—we are proud of that—we consider that, with the student revolution of 7 April, whose anniversary we are marking tonight, we triumphed over the opposition. However, from another angle, and as a result of developments that have taken now place in the world, we sympathize with the communists. If we find someone in Romania we would say: Stay a Marxist! He would say: No, Marxism must go! I have met officials from these countries and said: Brothers, stay communist, stay Marxist-Leninist! They said: No, that was a fraud [word indistinct] imposed on us by the Red Army, and by Stalin. [passage omitted].

Even the movement that basically has no relation with us has called itself the Green Movement, or the Greens, because it has realised that the polluted world should be washed and turned green. [passage omitted].

However, today we must carry out another storming operation to topple another theory, which is, like the previous ones, reactionary, worthless, heretical, and misleading. Its advocates are misled. Such a theory will not survive for the same arguments as those we gave about the opponent who was toppled in the first stage and will fall yet again in the second stage. The first and second opponent will not be able to stand up to the revolution; they can both, however, disturb the peace. They try to mislead some people. And some sort of naive and stupid people will be their victims. [chanting]

What we said about the predecessors we say about their successors [chanting; al-Qadhdhafi bangs on table to silence the chanters], and as we confronted the predecessors we will confront their successors. We will catch up with them and defeat them because the march of history and the revolution are not to be played with. [chanting; al-Qadhdhafi bangs on the table to silence the chanters].

Youth: Let us not waste too much time! Those who are now deceiving others will inevitably suffer the same fate as those I have spoken of; it is possible that they might be liquidated and that after some years, regrets may surface and some might say that they died in deceit and ended in deceit. What is now happening with the communist movement will happen with the heresy [ar zandaqah] movement. [chanting] Heresy is a movement which is against nationalism, against Arab unity, against socialism, against revolution and against progress; it is an identical copy of the movement which has been eliminated—an identical copy—and it will end in the same way that its mirror image movement ended. The existence of those who are against nationalism is unwanted because nationalism is a fact, a fact which is creating the history of mankind on earth. You may lose the earth, but nationalism will never die! They took the land of the Palestinian people, but the Palestinian people remained in camps in other countries as Palestinians. The Gypsies were dispersed to an extent that their homeland has become unknown, but the Gypsies as a nation are tied by nationalism.

You might even lose your country; they might be able to take it away from you. However, nationalism never dies. He who stands up against pan-Arabism tries to stand up against the impossible. And he will certainly fail. Even today's heresy, which is trying to hide, without any justification or right—it is rather a plot against religion—behind religion, has pan-Arabism as its main target. It should draw lessons from the past: He who tried to stand up to pan-Arabism was finished off.

Islam itself, which is from God, did not manage to bring together Persians and Arabs, Turks and Arabs, Albanians and Arabs, Bulgarians and Turks, and Greeks and Turks, nor did it manage to bring together an Italian and an Englishman or a German and a Frenchman, who are neighbors. Christianity could not bring them together. They are two different nationalities. Islam could not bring them together because they are two different nationalities. And because nationalities preceded religion and will outlive it, people might forget about their religion, might even abandon their own religion; but they will always remain one people. They can lose their country but never their nationality.

So what else can be above nationality. Nothing. Look, Gypsies will always remain Gypsies. A Gypsy is the cousin of another Gypsy. They are bound together by a nationality. Thus, any confrontation with nationalism is certain to fail. Today's heresy under various names, like al-Takfir wil al-Hijrah, al-Da'wah, al-Jihad, al-Ikhwan or al-Tahrir cannot confront pan-Arabism; they will surely fail if they dare. Pan-Arabism is a reality. They cannot stand up against Arab unity; as long as there is a people there will be unity between them: Unity is their magnetism and attraction [words indistinct]. If you disperse a nation, its sole aim will be unity because it has a magnet: Unity.

This should not however lead us to abandon our religion. Even al-Sanusiyyih with its charlatanry and treachery against the homeland and its independence, did not lead us to abandon our religion after defeating it. We negate the charlatanry of al-Sanusiyyah and its distortion of religion. The revolution carried the banner of true Islam. We are spreading Islam free from sects throughout the world.

Today's heresy—and those who are letting their beards go, making holes in their trousers, breaking up their teeth and plaiting their head—which exists in Egypt, in Morocco, and maybe elsewhere has some gangs in Libya, will not make us abandon Islam. On the contrary, it will lead us to defend Islam against the dangerous distortion which Islam is facing. Behind such a distortion are the Israeli, and British and U.S. intelligence. They sowed it in Asia and then made it spread for the second time from Asia. This is the second time that heresy has come from Asia in an attempt to deal a blow to pan-Arabism from within as well as deal a blow to Islam. Heresy emerged during the era of the Abbaside, during the days of al-Mansur in order to use Islamic mottoes for dealing a blow at Islam and the Arabs. Hersy came from Asia.

This is now experiencing a renaissance, it is coming once again from Asia. The Chinese who speaks Arabic and whom we taught Islam is coming to teach us Islam! They said Islam is redemption and migration. We are Arabs, we do not practice redemption and migration! The prophet says: No migration from a land whose inhabitants have submitted to Islam. That is it, we adhere to this saying! This means that redemption and migration is apostasy in the land of Islam. [passage omitted]

We will make them adhere to the Koran; these are things that are totally outside the Koran and outside Islam and we will fight for the Koran and fight for the words of God! [passage omitted] We are defending these enlightening verses and do not accept the divison of Islam: We accept no migration and no Islamic party. Hizballah is the entire Muslim nation; Islam is without sects! [passage omitted]

Brothers, creating parties in the name of Islam is what polytheists do, but you Muslims should not divide or create Islamic parties, and no party should be pleased with itself if al-Takfir says we are right, al-Hijra says we are right, al-Da'wa says we are right, the Brotherhood says we are right, the Islamic Liberation Party says we are right... The Koran has warned about these and, consequently, they should be eliminated. In the name of the Koran, not in the name of the revolution or anything; we shall never allow them. [passage omitted]

Heresy is now raising its head, and it should be cut. I have affirmed it on a number of occasions that this is jihad, it is in the name of God, in the name of the Koran, in the name of the revolution, in the name of the unity of the motherland. [passage omitted]

We are leading the world Islamic popular commander under the slogan: Islam without sects, God's party is the

entire Muslim world, heresy is rejected and should be eliminated. We agreed in our meetings here that the Brotherhood, al-Takfir, al-Hidjra, al Da'wa, al-Jihad, al-Tahrir and all these heretics and pariahs should be eliminated! [applause and chanting]

The third and last point; we have spoken about the birth of 7 April, and the students' revolution. Who were they against and what were the results of this battle and this confrontation? We said that there is another group which is replacing the group that was eliminated and defeated—that is disgrace and failure will be proved—that it will be shown to be misguided and that it will be eliminated throughout the Islamic nation.

The third point which I want to mention to you is that when we say revolution, that means liberation; liberation means that we determine our own destiny and no one else determines it for us. I want to tell you that the experiment which I called the official Jamahiriyah has passed and that the popular Jamahiriyah should begin, the Jamahiriyah of self-administration should begin: every sector is to manage itself.

Thus in this sector, the education sector, popular authority, self-management, and emancipation as far as you are concerned means that every department or faculty or university, as far as higher education is concerned—call it what you like—students and lecturers, either together or alone, this is a secondary question, should choose from among yourselves people's committees [words indistinct] in basic people's congresses, student congresses, lecturers' union or congress or whatever. You should choose from among yourselves those you charge with administration, with self-management. Thus, if we have 10 universities with 10 people's committees consisting of their students or their lecturers, the secretaries of these 10 committees would form a general people's committee for higher education. They would stand before the General People's Congress. One of them, who would be the secretary of this committee, would become a member of the General People's Congress. Consequently, the people's committee, which runs higher education adminstratively and implements the people's decisions in this regard, would not be imposed on this sector from the outside. [passage omitted]

The people, at the same time, would form a popular monitoring body to inspect higher education and see whether the directives of the Jamahiri society, whether these groups who rule themselves and adminster themselves, are proceeding in accordance with these directives or not. [passage omitted]

People's supervisors write, people's congresses write: Our group in higher education has not implemented the directions. Then the people reach out for you and begin to intervene, to do anything. We come to general education—the same applies, we no longer bring anyone from abroad. You come, the people brought you and told you you are a member of the General People's Committee for Education, or you are the secretary of the General People's Committee for Education.

We come to schools: They have people's committees, institutes have people's committees, they set up a general people's committee for general education from among themselves. Its secretary will be a member of the General People's Committee. In the same manner, general education is responsible before the people for its self-administration. The directions of the masses of society with regard to general education—has general education been implemented or not—because general education is independent. [sentence as heard] [al-Qadhdhafi bangs on the table and tells someone not to move] General education is independent, run by self-governing committees and congresses from its masses, but it is responsible before the people for running itself. [passage omitted]

The people will also set up an inspection apparatus for general education, from outside general education, which reports to the general congresses. [passage omitted] Thus, young people and professors, get ready to select people's committees with reason, awareness, and maturity while sitting on your chairs—without shouting and noise. Thus prepare on this occasion for the selection in the coming selection time—probably after Ramadan—of people's committees at college, department, and institutes level—I do not know how your organization will be. Select a general people's committee from among you and the people will join you in the selection. [passage omitted]

Thus, in conclusion, we on the occasion of the marking of the anniversary of the students' revolution have understood the circumstances of this revolution and its important results. [chanting] And we have learned the lesson of the students' revolution and highlighted an important stage, which has shown that our struggle had not been in vain. And that all our attitudes, measures and developments in it, including the execution of some people, were necessary. Let us assume that communism had triumphed in Libya and the revolution had fallen in 1976: You can now see that communism has fallen once again [words indistinct], because it has fallen even in Russia—what will its state be in Libya? [passage omitted]

This means that our attitude was correct and that the execution of the communists at that time who had confronted the revolutionary march was inevitable. Some asked: How can you execute people? This was inevitable. [applause] Now we say once again to the zendiks [people who exploit religion for their ends] that we will confront them and kill even some of those people when necessary, because the revolutionary march is sound and correct and any victory for the zendiks means annihilation of history.

Thus we cannot sacrifice the march of history for the sake of the caprice and misguidedness of people, people who were misled or were bribed or who are trivial, ignorant. The zendiks came to someone who was high on

hashish and told him: We will get you to paradise. Leave the hashish alone and join us. And he joins them. Will we lose the revolution for the sake of one who used to smoke hashish, who was tempted by paradise, starts to receive (?money) and begin to fight us? To hell with him! What is this idle talk? [applause and slogan shouting] The struggle continues! [more applause and slogan shouting]

Students Pledge Support for Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0904175490 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 9, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The General Congress of the students of Great Jamahiryah sent a message to the leader of the revolution at the end of their festivities marking the 14th anniversary of the students' revolution of the 7th April. Following is the text of the message: Brother leader, teacher and universal revolutionary, the leader of the universal al-Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: greetings of the great al-Fatih.

Dear heroic leader, revolutionary teacher, leader of the masses' era, the messenger of the era of the masses to the peoples of the world, the era of emancipation and freedom. Dear leader who taught us to conduct revolution against injustice for liberty is the solve love for which we die. Here are the students of glorious 7th April revolution full of determination in their hearts and eyes stand united in steadfastness and renewed will to realise the era of the masses. Here are your soldiers who responded to your call [word indistinct] your historic speech on 5th al-Tayr 1976 in the city of Suluq in which you instigated student masses to purge the rotten reactionary right wing at universities, [and] tear up the programmes of ignorance, oppression and slavery. On this great historic day, we would like to renew to you our vow that we will remain your daring soldiers and faithful to the principles and values of the universal great al-Fatih revolution. We unequivocally pledge ourselves that we will be the pen, the letter, the word and the arm which will sink the idols of infidelity and ig- rance. Dear leader who taught us dignity and pride: We pledge ourselves, we the student masses of Great Jamahiryah, to be the messengers of the new civilisation, civilisation of the era of the masses, messengers of the Jamahiri thought, thoughts of the third universal theory. May you remain our leader, thinker, teacher and guide. Every night is a night of the great al-Fatih revolution. Every day is the 7th April. Forward and revolutionary struggle shall continue.

African Communications Body Accepts Libya

LD0604230890 Tripoli JANA in English 1832 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Lagos, Al-Tayr [April] 6. JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—Great Jamahiriyah was chosen yesterday as a member representing North Africa in the Governmental Council for Communications in Africa at the conference held in the city of Abeuokuta - Nigeria.

Agustus M'Basi from Congo was reinstated as director general of the Pan-Africa News Agency (PANA) for another 4 years.

European Parliament Ban on Export to Iraq Viewed

LD0704112690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Apr (JANA)—The European Parliament has called on the EC to ban the export to Iraq of all equipment necessary for the production of mass destruction weapons. JANA Arab Affairs editor commented on this call and said:

Before we talk about the background of this call and before we expose its objectives we would like to say, out of principle, that we fully and sincerely welcome any move or course of action aimed not only at reducing the production of the mass destruction weapons, but also at banning and prohibiting the production of such weapons. There are at least two reasons for our support:

Firstly: We the Arabs do not possess the weapons for mass destruction.

Secondly: We the Arabs do not harbor evil against mankind and we hate to cause any harm to mankind. We do not have ambition for which we need to possess weapons for mass destruction.

The Great Green Document for human rights in the era of the masses said: "The sons of the Jamahiri society [society of the masses] believe that peace among nations can (help) achieve wealth, prosperity, and harmony. They call for the abolition of the arms trade and the reduction of arms production, for this constitutes a waste of the societies' resources and burdens the individuals with (further) taxes and frightens them with the propagation of destruction and death in the world. The sons of the Jamahiri society also call for the elimination of the atomic, bacteriological, and chemical weapons and (other) means of mass destruction and for the destruction of stocks of these weapons. They call for ridding mankind of the atomic plants and their dangerous waste".

The editor added: This text sums up the civilization and morals of the Arabs and sums up the Arab way of life and the message of the arab nation in this world and it is the permanent call for good-doing, good relations, love and peace—for our greeting is "Peace be upon you". We greet each other with peace and we are the only nation in the world which proved its love for peace by proclaiming even before the advent of Islam one quarter of the year as sacred months during which fighting and war are prohibited.

However, the European Parliament, which was in a state of deep lethargy, and which emits only snoring, did not wake up suddenly to call on America and the Israelis to stop the production of weapons of mass destruction. If this European Parliament did wake up once from its

sleep, it woke up to sanction the production of weapons of mass destruction by the Americans and the Israelis. Now it is waking up again as if it had been stung or had become mad because the matter concerns the Arabs, whom the West does not want to achieve any progress in any field. Therefore the European Parliament called for a ban on the export to Iraq of any equipment necessary for the production of weapons of mass destruction.

The European Parliament did not take advantage of this short awakening from its lethargy or feigned sleep to express ever its concern over the launch by the Israelis of the spy satellite in the skies of the Arab nation. We did not hear this parliament charging [as received], even once, the regimes and the governments which have financed the Israelis' atomic program—when the European Parliament knows very well that the atomic program of the Israelis is linked to a campaign of invasion whose objective is to eliminate the Arab race.

The editor wondered: If the concern for peace and security in the world was the motive behind the appeal by the European Parliament, why did it not call on the Israelis to put an end to the production of weapons of mass destruction?

Why did the European Parliament call for blockade, encirclement, and banning of exporting equipment to bear upon Iraq only? The only precise answer to this is that the crusader racist spirit still prevails in the West, and that there is an exposed and unveiled alliance between the Jews and the Christians against Muslims.

So long as things remain as they are, each one of us must look for the power with which to protect himself and defend his existence in this world, which the crusaders and the Zionists wanted to be a jungle where ascendancy goes to the strongest and not to the wisest.

JANA Arab Affairs editor concluded his commentary by saying that the Arabs have the right to possess the power and our God ordered us to possess the power and "to prepare for them all the power you can muster," especially as the crusaders and the Israelis are in possession of the weapons of destruction and their motive behind it is to destroy and annihilate us. War will end only with the elimination of the heavy loads of weapons which they have. If they destroy their weapons for the sake of peace—excellent—otherwise we will have to possess the power. "But if you return, we shall return; and we have made Gehenna a prison for the unbelievers" [reference from the Koran].

Comments on 'Biased' Iranian Media, Arab Unity

LD0904090190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Apr (JANA)—Iranian newspapers initiated a biased campaign against pan-Arabism and Arab unity after the recent speech made by the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They consider the idea of pan-Arabism as stemming from the West, which aims at harming Islamic unity.

The Iranian newspapers accused the Arab thinkers who call for Arab unity of being agents of the anti-Islamic Western thought. JANA's Arab Affairs editor expresses astonishment at the stance of the Iranian newspapers, and asks if we are all Muslims, why was there a war on the borders along the Shatt al-Arab. He further says: How could such a war be justified if there was no national conflict?

Mauritania

Military Committee Appoints New Finance Minister

LD1004025490 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The chairmanship of the Military Committee for National Salvation has announced that by virtue of a decree issued today Mr. Mohamed Ould Michel is minister of finance. The chairmanship also announced that Mr. Mohamed Ould Nany has been apointed personal advisor to the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state.

Former Polisario Official Arrives for Visit

AB0804192190 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 8 Apr 90

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The former defense spokesman of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], which is fighting for the independence of Western Sahara from Morocco, has arrived in Mauritania on an official visit. A week ago, news reports in Morocco said the former spokesman, Mr. Ibrahim Alhali, was in a Polisario prison after trying to defect to Morocco, reports strongly denied by Polisario.

Yesterday, Mr. Alhali had talks with President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, which were said to have been concentrated on developments in the region following last month's visit to Algeria and Morocco by the United Nations secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar. Mr. Perez de Cuellar held talks with King Hassan of Morocco and Polisario leaders about a United Nations-sponsored referendum on self-determination for Western Sahara.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Comments on Regional Relations

PM1004083090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 9 Apr 90 pp 13 16

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah by Fu'ad Matar in Manama; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Matar] We noted Bahrain's special support for the Saudi-Omani border agreement. Do you consider it an exceptional agreement?

[Al Khalifah] In our view, any agreement which ends unresolved problems between two brothers in the Arab homeland is a gain for all Arabs. We regard the settlement of any unresolved problems as something good that we welcome and support. We see it as an example to be followed. We believe it is important to concentrate on settling unresolved disputes and issues, because if we don't, they would affect the common action march. So we regard what has been achieved between Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman as a blessed, responsible, and comprehensive step between two brothers in connection with border demarcation.

[Matar] That prompts me to ask about your expectations regarding Bahrain and its unresolved issues.

[Al Khalifah] They will be resolved as soon as possible. We are doing our utmost to ensure that there are no unresolved problems with any of our brothers. Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are doing their utmost to settle unresolved issues between GCC states.

[Matar] Are there any new measures in this connection?

[Al Khalifah] I have nothing new to say except the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is playing a mediation role, as agreed.

[Matar] That brings us to Arab-Iranian relations. We note that despite the flexibility displayed by Iraq and despite the Arab brothers' support for that flexibility, there has been no progress in the Iranian position on direct negotiations, or even on the pressing issue of the hostages. At the same time, there is no Arab reactivation of the peace mission, nor is pressure being exerted by friends or Iran itself. Do you not think the situation requires some moves?

[Al Khalifah] True, the war did stop and the Security Council issued a resolution, but the situation has become one of neither peace nor war, whereas what is needed is a lasting and comprehensive peace. This situation does not serve peace in the region. It is unacceptable and does not suit us. Extensive Arab efforts must be made in that connection. The GCC states are striving to help the UN secretary general to implement Resolution No. 598. We are in constant contact regarding that and have not stopped our efforts for a single moment. The UN secretary general, too, is making his own efforts. But undoubtedly, direct talks are a must to attain a final solution. I think restoring trust is important. Agreement on peace can be achieved by restoring trust—which can be done by both sides. President Saddam Husayn has presented some good initiatives and we hope Iran will adopt stances in that direction. We are working to bring the two sides' positions closer. [passage omitted]

[Matar] We hear some talk from Iran about the "military option." Do you believe there still is room for that option, or has it lapsed?

[Al Khalifah] It must lapse. I do not believe any experienced person regards the military option as helpful. It is a harmful option, and we have no option except the option of amity and coexistence, because we are developing states and need all resources for development, not confrontation; for cooperation, not opposition. We hope the war will not return. We hope it has gone forever. We are at the stage of reorganizing the Gulf home and maintaining coexistence in the region on realistic foundations and based on good-neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs. These are fundamental principles.

[Matar] By the "Gulf home", do you mean all the Gulf states, including Iran?

[Al Khalifah] Yes. I am speaking about the Gulf in general. That war has affected the Gulf region as a whole, and there must be an understanding in the region as a whole. The confrontation method has ended, and the target now is cooperation, because the war has harmed not only the two warring states, but all the region's states.

[Matar] The issue of the hour is what has happened between Iraq and Britain as a result of the spy, Bazoft.

[Al-Khalifah] What has happened between Iraq and Britain is regrettable. States are sovereign and have their own laws. Whoever enters a country must respect its laws. Espionage is most dangerous to any state. The escalation of the media campaign by the British press has not helped calm the situation. As you know, there always are newspapers which try to distort and harm the Arab position for purposes that are not in the interest of the states they serve. As you know, world Zionism has great influence regarding that. It always tries to harm relations with the Arabs. I hope we will overcome that stage. The media campaign must stop, and Iraqi-British relations must be restored to normal. Obviously, such matters must be handled calmly, not through an escalation.

[Matar] An escalation by Britain?

[Al Khalifah] Of course, by Britain. There is no reason for such an escalation.

[Matar] Relations between you and the PRC suddenly have been strengthened. Its foreign minister has visited you, and his highness the amir has been invited to visit China. Have you sensed any initiative on the PRC's side,

and is it the alternative to the Soviet Union, which is no longer a superpower because of the developments taking place there?

[Al Khalifah] The PRC is a superpower in every sense of the word. It is a permanent Security Council member responsible for security and peace in the world. It bases its moves on cooperation, mutual interests, the elimination of ideological differences, and noninterference in internal affairs. It wants to establish relations of economic interest and mutual respect—good things which we can sense from a state like China. Bahrain is a trading nation, and we deal with China in that field. We believe dealings in that field will increase in the future. We also believe China will be an important market for our oil products.

Politically, China's stances toward our Arab issues are good. All this gives China a good opportunity to establish good relations with the Arab states. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Israel now is calling or planning for a war, and such a state can impose on the Arabs while awaiting peace. Do you share this belief?

[Al Khalifah] While thinking about peace, you have to prepare for confrontation and arm yourself with all the destructive weapons in the world. Of course, Israel possesses such weapons.

The Arab military force now cannot be ignored. The Arabs' military position is strong now, but requires strong coordination. If that happens, Israeli intransigence will diminish. If coordination weakens, Israeli intransigence will increase. We have two options: to strengthen our ranks and enhance our economic and military cooperation, or leave Israel to continue its intransigence, settlement programs, and the usurpation of the land. The Arab position always must pursue strength, determination, and cooperation.

Cabinet Supports Iraqi Actions, Praises Proposal

JN0804134890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 8 Apr (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has affirmed its backing and support for Iraq in its full and legitimate right to defend its installations and territorial integrity by using all means and ways that would enable it to safeguard its security and sovereignty.

The State of Bahrain also paid tribute to Iraq's positive stands, which call for enhancing regional peace and security and express its readiness to destroy its chemical weapons arsenals according to a regional agreement that would force Israel to scrap its arsenals of mass destruction weapons and to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

This stand was expressed during the ordinary session conducted by the Bahraini Council of Ministers in Manama today, which Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah chaired.

During its review of the orchestrated anti-Iraq media campaign, the Council of Ministers affirmed this campaign is prompted by a desire to find excuses for aggression on Iraq to curb its scientific development and obstruct the efforts currently made to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question and secure the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, who are suffering from the daily repression and suppression of the Israeli occupation authorities.

The Council of Ministers pointed out the challenges currently facing the Arab nation require a unified Arab stance to protect this nation from impending dangers. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Spokesman Denounces 'Campaign' Against Iraq

LD0704133290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1208 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 7 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Saturday sided with Iraq against a wide Western campaign launched by Britain and the United States in an attempt to deny Iraq the right to possess chemical weapons and other highly advanced weaponry.

"Kuwait, while deploring this campaign and its exposed intentions, sides with brotherly Iraq in the right to defend its safety and security of its people using all available means," an official Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY.

The spokesman added," Brotherly Iraq, since some time, has been facing a biased media campaign launched by Western aggressive circles supported by well-known Zionist circles."

The campaign, he stressed, "is departing from the principle to deny Iraq the right to possess defensive weapons while seeking to mass a supportive international public opinion."

Britain and the United States accused Iraq of attempting to possess nuclear and atomic bombs. While denying that charge, Iraq has admitted that it possesses chemical weapons with which it can destroy half of Israel. The Iraqi disclosure has been a disturbing factor to Israel and its backers. Israel, only a day after the disclosure, launched its second satellite orbiting the earth many times a day.

The satellite, specialists say, can collect data and information on Arab countries and might be able to bring a feedback on Iraqi installations manufacturing chemical weapons.

PDRY

Official Says Unification Steps Nearly Complete

EA0704210790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, has confirmed the draft constitution of the united state will be referred to the parliaments of the two parts of the homeland for their endorsement toward the end of May, at the latest. It then will be referred to the masses in the two parts of the homeland for a referendum according to the stipulations of the unification agreement of 30 November.

In a statement to AL-THAWRI, he said 97 percent of the unification measures now had been completed. He stressed only three percent of the unification work remains. He defined this as applying to the question of unifying the authorities of the two parts of the homeland.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad stated the Committee on Unified Political Organization would resume its meetings this week in Sanaa. Concerning the topics to be discussed by the committee in this meeting, the brother assistant secretary general said the committee would consider a number of subjects, and vital and important issues, such as the draft of the national action charter, the draft law on parties, the position of party and political work in the armed forces, and the education and involvement of the patriotic forces during the transitional period.

Concerning the reasons for the delay in the work of the committee, the chairman of the southern part in the committee said these reasons include our continuing link with the leadership and the consequent outcome of the meetings of the leadership at a summit level. Another reason was the outcome of the proceedings of the different unification committees, including the work of the Committee on a Unified Political Organization. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Israel's Stance on Iraqi Chemical Weapons Viewed

JN0704211690 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Apr 90 p 1

[Editorial: "We Will Not Be Defeated Psychologically]

[Text] Only minutes after President Saddam Husayn announced the possession of chemical deterrents to face Israel's dark plots against all peoples and states in the region, Israeli media were activated. Those organs still are fanning the flames to provoke a military aggression against Iraq and vital targets in more than one Arab country.

This inflammatory campaign coincides with another campaign adopted by the [Israeli] military establishment, which announced the launch of the military espionage satellite, Ofeq-2, only hours after the Iraqi president made his statements. It also announced the satellite carries advanced cameras that even can photograph ants on any spot in Arab territory. The Israeli military establishment, furthermore, announced the manufacture of the intercontinental 1,500-mile-range missile, Jericho-2, and stated this missile will be developed into the 2,000-mile-range missile, Jericho-3.

In all these campaigns, Israel aims to show it has huge destructive military capabilities and resources. It does so as part of its planned, constant psychological war against the Arab citizen to continue to impose the psychological defeat on the people's of the region. Israeli strategic thinking is based on certain fundamental assumptions, primarily, the idea Israel lives in an environment that rejects its existence and which has a greater population. The only way, therefore, for Israel to guarantee it will not face defeat is to impose a psychological defeat on all those masses of people surrounding it. The five Arab-Israeli wars fought in the past 40 years have proven Israel's victories were not achieved through its military capability alone, but because the Arab citizen was defeated from within and doubted his ability to resist. The gains achieved by Israeli troops in the battlefields were preceded by vicious media campaigns that made us surrender, in some cases even before the confrontation actually had begun.

The mammoth uproar stirred up by the Zionists over the Iraqi statements was not due to the fact Iraq has chemical weapons, especially since they possess stronger weapons—nuclear ones. They are afraid such statements will raise the morale and zeal of the Arab citizen and restore his pride and belief in himself. They also are afraid these statements will make the Arab citizen believe he can restore the glories of his Muslim forefathers, who ruled the entire world and built a lofty civilization on whose ruins the current dominant Western materialistic civilization—which uses Israel as its spearhead to abort any attempt for a new Islamic awakening—was built.

We address a clear message to the Zionists: Save yourself your propaganda efforts, because the heroes of the stones have revealed to us the Jews' cowardliness and inability to face them. We never will submit to psychological terrorism, and we never will be defeated from within, especially since we now possess great military and economic means, which will enable us to deter our enemies.

The Zionists are cowards and unable to face things. Arab Muslim young men know their nature, which God has explained by saying: They will not fight you even together, except in fortified townships, or from behind walls. Strong is their fighting spirit amongst themselves: thou wouldst think they were united, but their hearts are divided. [portion of Koranic verse]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Contacts Syrian, Libyan, Sudanese Leaders

JN0804125790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, yesterday conducted telephone conversations with his brothers Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution; and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan. He discussed with them relations between our country and each of the three fraternal countries, and developments in the Arab arena, particularly those related to the threats facing the Arab nation, represented by the unjust hostile campaign and its consequences, which constitute a new, serious challenge to the Arab will.

The telephone conversations dealt with the nature of this campaign directed against our Arab nation because of its sincere, constant pan-Arab direction to overcome its differences, move toward closing its ranks in a united front, and unify efforts to face the challenges; and because of its determination to possess means of power and capability that will enable it to defend its dignity, resources, national sovereignty, and existence.

The need for pan-Arab action to foil these hostile moves against the Arab nation also was emphasized. Discussion also focused on the need to foil the Israeli and Zionist plots and all hostile actions directed against our Arab nation by unifying all Arab countries and massing all of their resources to face all threats and challenges.

'Reciprocal Move' To Deport U.S. Diplomat

JN0904063890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated an accredited diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad will be deported as a reciprocal move in response to the U.S. Government's deportation of one of the accredited diplomats at the permanent Iraqi mission to the United Nations.

There is no truth whatsoever in the accusations leveled against the Iraqi diplomat working in our mission at the United Nations.

The spokesman affirmed that the latest U.S. decision cannot be isolated from the series of successive and heated campaigns to harm Iraq. It could also serve Israeli aggressive motives.

In this case, as in the previous case, it is clear that there is a premeditated intention to harm Iraq.

Paper: Bush Statements Start of Election Campaign

JN0904081690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0618 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said U.S. President George Bush's statements do not befit his position nor the claims he makes regarding his concern for peace. They clearly are biased in favor of the Zionist entity.

In an article published today, in which it commented on the latest statements by the U.S. President, it added these statements were a true expression of the U.S. President's complete gratitude to those who put him in his present position and proof the speaker does not belong to this age, because the statements were based on blatant and open belligerence.

AL-THAWRAH affirmed President Saddam Husayn, in the comprehensive speech he delivered when honoring the minister of defense, the minister of industry and military industrialization, and a group of Iraqi heroes, affirmed Iraq's firm and open warning to the Zionist entity, especially against thinking in any form or shape of attacking Iraq or the Arab nation.

The paper pointed out President Saddam Husayn's warnings were met offically and popularly with great and wide-spread response among the ranks of the Arab nation's sons. They also created fear and concern in the minds of the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, such as the Zionists and the Zionized.

The paper affirmed that in his latest statements, the U.S. President intentionally ignored all statements made by the Zionists, who have unleashed all their aggressive tendencies and proceeded to boisterously brag about possessing nuclear weapons and their intention to carry out an aggression against Iraq, without considering world public opinion or the dangerous threat this poses to security and safety in the region.

The paper noted President George Bush's anti-Iraq statements came at the same time as the British-Zionist campaign, which reveals the extent of aggressive coordination among the trilateral American-British-Zionist sides with a grudge against Iraq and the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH said the escalating and heated campaign against Iraq, if compared with U.S. President Bush's tone and the provocative statements he used, affirm that he was not merely talking about a whim whose goals we know, but also proceeding from an attitude suggested by the Zionist circles.

The paper linked the motives behind the U.S. President's recent statements with his early preparations for his election campaign, which he thinks to start by shedding tears at the Wailing Wall in occupied Palestine to guarantee the position he is in today for himself in the future.

It said Iraq always has proven it is the first to appreciate the meaning of peace and security by heading those seeking to entrench the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of world countries and the one most concerned about its security, national sovereignty, and independence.

The paper concludes its article by affirming Iraq knows very well the onslaught against it is equal in size to the pure, dignified, and pan-Arab role it is shouldering for the benefit of the Arab nation, and that the escalation and ferocity of it also affirm Iraq is moving in the right direction to serve the Arab nation and its noble goals.

It also affirmed the Zionist entity, which occupies Palestine, and the United States, which supports the Zionists, are responsible for escalating tension in the Middle East region, and not Iraq, which is confronting the enemies of the Arab nation to thwart their open and aggressive targets.

Oil Minister Returns From Japan, Comments

JN1004064490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi and his delegation today returned to Baghdad following a five-day visit to Japan.

In a statement to INA, the oil minister said his talks with Japanese officials during the visit dealt with relations between the two countries and means to improve them. He pointed out the Japanese Government is interested in improving its relations with Iraq and in encouraging Japanese firms to contribute to the projects of the national development plan, particularly the industrial and oil projects.

He added the delegation conducted meetings with businessmen and oil and engineering firms in Japan to discuss their contribution in the execution of the development plan's projects.

The minister said he delivered a lecture in Japan on Iraq's oil policy and the major role Iraq will play in view of its huge oil reserves and growing production capacities.

Peres Says Alignment Coalition Issue 'Closed'

TA0804195490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] This evening, in an exclusive interview, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told us the issue of forming the government is closed. The Alignment will try to add the breakaway Liberal Knesset members Moda'i, Goldstein, and Grupper to the coalition, and negotiations with this group are conducted at this moment. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren this evening interviewed Mr. Peres:

[Begin recording] [Goren] Good evening, sir. What is the picture at this moment regarding the chances of expanding the basis of coalition?

[Peres] I hope the basis will be expanded. We are in the opening stages of examinations and negotiations. We will be able to conclude them soon.

[Goren] What are the chances of adding Moda'i and his friends to the coalition?

[Peres] I cannot tell you yet.

[Goren] How does the situation with Agudat Yisra'el look?

[Peres] It is stable, well organized; all the rumors alleging there are changes or cracks in our 61 [Knesset members] have no grounds. All of the 61 are there, and I repeat: We will form a stable government that will deal with the two major issues on our agenda—aliyah and peace negotiations. I am certain the whole nation will be able to breath again.

[Goren] Mr. Peres, do you see the formation of the government as a closed matter, or are there still difficulties?

[Peres] Naturally there are difficulties, but I consider the matter closed.

[Goren] Thank you.

[Goren turns to camera and continues] Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin left the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv and headed to an unidentified location for the meeting with Yitzhaq Moda'i, Pinhas Goldstein, and Pesah Grupper. [passage omitted]

Here is the picture at this moment. The Likud has no blocking alliance, and the Alignment seems to have a majority no longer dependent on a single Knesset member. It is noted in the Alignment this evening that there is true interest in adding Moda'i and his friends, which is based on both the need to expand the basis of the government, and on the realization a central-liberal force will benefit the State.

The focus, therefore, now shifts from the question of whether there is a government, to the question of what will be the size of the coalition. The race for portfolio distribution begins now, both in every party and among the parties that will form the new coalition. [end recording]

Moda'i Group Grants 'Free Vote' for Session

TA0904144490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The Moda'i group has decided to grant its members a free vote when the new government is introduced in the Knesset on 11 April. The decision was made after lengthy consultations by Moda'i, Grupper, and Goldstein, and they already have notified Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres of their decision.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the decision allows the Moda'i group to continue contacts with all the parties up until the time of the vote in the Knesset on Wednesday night.

Shamir Accepts, Peres Rejects Unity Government

TA0904155390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The Moda'i group has decided to grant its members the freedom to vote as they wish on 11 April when the new government will be introduced. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has been notified. Our correspondent notes it seems Moda'i is inclined toward the Likud, although the free vote decision means he reserves for himself the freedom to maneuver until the very last moment.

The Likud ministers will convene tomorrow evening and have invited Moda'i and his men to attend. A senior source in the Likud has expressed the hope it will be possible to conclude the agreement with the Liberal group during this meeting.

At the same time, Moda'i's associates have reported that two days ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir agreed to return to the system of a national unity government, this time in a rotation with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Mr. Peres rejected the offer. Moda'i's associates reported that two days ago, he initiated a proposition to bridge the gap between the two blocs, and that he conferred separately with Yithzaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres and raised the rotation proposition. According to the proposition, this government should have ratified a law for direct election of the prime minister within three months and a change in the electoral system in six months.

According to Moda'i's associates, Shamir immediately accepted the offer, while Shim'on Peres rejected it, stating he will present his government Wednesday.

Moda'i's associates have added Moda'i has reached an agreement with Shinuy Movement Chairman Amnon

Rubinstein that the two bodies will support the Alignment-headed government on the condition the bill for direct election of the prime minister within three months is passed.

Shinuy Denies Agreement Reached With Moda'i

TA0904174390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The Shinuy Movement has denied the report made on behalf of Minister Moda'i that he had reached an agreement with Knesset Member [MK] Rubinstein that both movements' support for an Alignment government would hinge on passing a bill for the direct election of the prime minister within three months.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that this morning, Moda'i indeed addressed MK Rubinstein, but Moda'i suggested the conditional support of both the Alignment and the Likud based on a change in the electoral system. MK Rubinstein, however, replied if his movement was to support any government, it only would be an Alignment-led one, and in no way would it support a Likud government.

President Herzog Treated for Ulcer, Discharged

TA1004105390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] President Hayim Herzog felt unwell on Saturday night and was taken to hospital where a bleeding stomach ulcer was diagnosed. However, the president was discharged from hospital before the Passover festival and celebrated the seder at his official Jerusalem residence with a large number of guests, including many Soviet immigrants. This report was released by the presidential spokesman.

Bethlehem Mayor Comments After Meeting Baker

TA1004093190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state met in Washington last night with the Bethlehem mayor. Following the meeting, Ilyas Frayj said Secretary Baker noted he does not support settling immigrants in the territories, including East Jerusalem. Frayj added Secretary Baker and his aide, Jonh Kelly, shared his hope Shim'on Peres would be able to form a government quickly, thus paving the way for a meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo. The above was reported by our monitor, Mikha'el Gurdus.

New Soviet Delegation Head Appointed; Comments

TA0904093390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 90 p A 2

[By Erol Guiney]

[Excerpts] Despite the brisk political activity of the past few days, Israeli politicians found time to attend a reception yesterday at the Soviet representation building in Tel Aviv hosted by Georgiy Martirosov, outgoing head of the Soviet delegation. Martirosov took the opportunity to introduce Aleksey Chistyakov, new head of the delegation. [passage omitted]

Chistyakov is the Soviet Foreign Ministry's leading expert on the Middle East. At one time he was in charge of the USSR's relations with Israel and the PLO and of the issue of settlements in the territories.

Chistyakov stated he intends to conduct "a very open" dialogue with the Israeli press and public in a bid to attain better understanding between the two nations.

According to some rumors, the Soviet representatives shortly will be accorded the status of an official consular delegation.

Data on Immigrant Settlement in Territories

TA0904072590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 90 p A 4

[Excerpts] Only 175 immigrants who arrived in Israel in the fiscal year ending 31 March 1990 and who were not sent to absorption centers settled beyond the Green Line, according to an internal Jewish Agency report that reached the HA'ARETZ correspondent.

The report also discloses some 1,800 immigrants settled directly in the Jerusalem area, and of those, some 1,300 settled in Jerusalem neighborhoods built beyond the Green Line after the Six-Day War (Gilo, East Talpiyot, Ramot, Neve Ya'aqov, and Giv'at Hamivtar). [passage omitted]

The report deals with immigrants from all countries and not only those from the USSR, although it is clear the great majority arrived from the Soviet Union.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT 9 April reports "41,500 immigrants arrived during the fiscal year that just ended. Of these, 24,019 were not sent to abosrption centers, but preferred to look after themselves."]

The HA'ARETZ correspondent points out the report's findings deal only with immigrants who did not go to absorption centers. According to estimates by immigrant absorption officials, of future immigrants sent to absorption centers, a few dozen ultimately will go to live beyond the Green Line. [passage omitted]

'Amos Ungar, Housing Ministry director general, said that in talks with the Israel Land Administration and the Treasury, his office has worked out the towns and settlements in which 30,000 apartments for Soviet immigrants would be built. HA'ARETZ has learned the list does not include the establishment of apartments in the territories.

Poll: 80 Percent for Changing Electoral System

TA0904092790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 90 p A1

[Dahaf public opinion poll]

[Text] Question: Are you for or against changing the current electoral system to a regional-personal system?

Answer: For—80 percent; against—9 percent; no opinion—11 percent.

Question: Are you for or against choosing the prime minister in personal elections?

Answer: For—78 percent; against—11 percent; no opinion—11 percent.

Question: Which of the following men is best suited to be prime minister?

Answer: Shamir—20 percent; Peres—20 percent; Arens—6 percent; Rabin—32 percent; Sharon—11 percent; Weizman—4 percent.

The telephone poll was conducted at the end of last week on a representative sample of 531 respondents.

Update on Incidents in Territories 5, 6 Apr

TA0604114890

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 April in a report on page 1 by Joel Greenberg reports that "troops shot and killed Nayif al-A'raji, 23, during clashes with rioters" in the Rafah refugee camp yesterday. "Military sources said the shots were fired by soldiers riding in a military vehicle, when their lives were endangered." The report adds that a 16 year old was shot twice during clashes between pupils and soldiers in Bayt Jala, and cites "military sources" as saying that "during an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raid at Nasariyah [as published] near Nabulus, troops arrested six wanted men who had two guns in their possession. One of the men is believed to have been involved in five killings of alleged 'collaborators' and the abduction and violent interrogation of other people suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The other five men included residents of Bayt Furik and Kafr Salim, who are suspected of involvement in the killing of a Kafr Furik man accused of 'collaboration' and assaults on other alleged 'collaborators'."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 6 April reports that "this morning the IDF imposed a curfew on Rafah following serious rioting yesterday that left a local resident dead from soldier's gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus says that today makrs the anniversary of the Arab Liberation Front, one of the more extreme Palestinian organizations, and that this anniversary is going to be observed in the territories today." Slogans calling for "an escalation of the armed struggle" were painted in Rafah this week on behalf of that organization.

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 6 April reports "the security forces have detained Shaykh Bassam Jarrar of al-Birah, considered a key Hamas [Islamic resistance Movement] leader in Judaea and Samaria. An ITIM correspondent points out the shaykh, a teacher at UNRWA's [UN Relief and Works Agency] teachers seminary in Ramallah, was apprehended twice during the intifadah and once was put under administrative detention for six months for hostile subversive activity."

Incidents in Territories 6-8 Apr Reported

TA0804101190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] The bodies of two Palestinians accused of cooperating with the authorities were found yesterday in the territories, and a youth fell to his death while fleeing troops in the Gaza Strip.

In Ramallah, the body of Nabil Mayassa, 35, was found in the city's industrial zone. According to some Arab reports, he had been stabbed and beaten to death. Other accounts said he had been shot by kidnappers who seized his gun when it fell as he tried to escape.

In Gaza, the body of 'Abdallah Makatt, 44, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, was found in his cell in the "Ansar 2" prison camp. An army spokesman said a cellmate confessed to hanging Makatt.

In Khan Yunus on Friday, 'Ali Irbaya 17, was killed when he fell through a hole in a roof while fleeing soldiers after he hung a Palestinian flag from the minaret of the town's main mosque. Crowds had gathered at the mosque to protest against its closure by the IDF [Israel Defense Force] as punishment for the flying of flags from the building.

In subsequent clashes over the weekend in Khan Yunus, Gaza and Jabalyah, 29 people were reported wounded, including a 14-year-old boy critically wounded in the head. A soldier and a border policeman were lightly injured by stones.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT 8 April reports "in the wake of yesterday's riots, this morning the Army imposed a curfew on Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip.] In the West Bank, seven people were reported wounded at the al-Jalazun refugee camp in unrest that followed the killing of a local boy in clashes in Ramallah on Thursday.

In al-Birah, the security forces arrested Shaykh Bassam Jarar, considered a leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist. Jarrar already has served two six-month terms of administrative detention during the uprising.

Jordan, Libya Move Toward Reopening Embassies

JN0904071590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian delegation entrusted with finalising "administrative" preparations for the reopening of Jordan's embassy in Tripoli will arrive in the Libyan capital Tuesday while a similar Libyan delegation is expected in Amman this week, sources told the JORDAN TIMES Sunday.

The Jordanian delegation, headed by Ambassador at-large Hisham al-Muhaysin and including the director of the department of finance at the ministry, "will work to facilitate administrative and financial procedures," an official source said.

The source termed this move as "a further step towards improved relations between Jordan and Libya."

Jordan broke diplomatic ties with Libya in 1984 after crowds of Libyan students stormed the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli and looted and burned the building. Several months later Libya closed its embassy in Jordan and assigned its affairs to the Syrian embassy in the Kingdom.

The two countries resumed relations in 1988 when Jordan unilaterally announced the resumption of diplomatic ties with Libya to facilitate the success of the Amman Arab summit after Arab mediation efforts.

One of the conditions placed on the resumption of diplomatic ties by Jordan was that Libya undertake financial responsibility for the damage to the Jordanian embassy building in Tripoli.

The Foreign Ministry source told the JORDAN TIMES Sunday that the embassy building in Libya "has been renovated and furnished at the expense of the Libyan government."

The Jordanian delegation will receive the keys to the new embassy," the source said.

The Libyan delegation, which is supposed to arrive in Jordan this week, will also take charge of their embassy in Amman.

According to the senior official, al-Muhaysin will only head the preparatory delegtion to reopen the Jordanian embassy "but another higher delegation will inaugurate the embassy later."

The name of the proposed ambassador was not immediately available but the Foreign Ministry source said "consultations are underway to find the right ambassador."

Finance Minister on Improved Economic Situation

JN0904072890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said Sunday that Jordan's exports had increased by 12 per cent, exceeding the target of six per cent set under the Kingdom's economic adjustment programme.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Jardanah also said Jordan's imports had decreased by 12 per cent against four per cent targetted in the programme.

Jardanah statements followed five days of meeting with officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The minister pointed out that a joint evaluation carried out by the ministry and the IMF team had found that the deficit in Jordan's balance of trade had dropped from JD 1,700 million to JD 1,150 million and that the budget deficit had dropped from 24 per cent of the gross national product to 16 per cent.

He noted that Jordan had been able to build its foreign currency reserve and to increase it by $300 million, enabling the Central Bank to stabilise the dinar's exchange rate.

Jardanah said Jordan would achieve an economic growth of 2.5 per cent during the year 1990, helping to create new job opportunities. Jardanah expected further improvement in the balance of trade, increasing exports and a further drop in the budget deficit.

He also expected an increase of approximately $150 million in the foreign currency reserve. Jardaneh stressed that the year 1991 will be better than 1990 because of the improvements on the basics of the national economy.

"Such improvements will encourage investors to embark on investment projects in Jordan to benefit from the incentives provided by Jordan," he noted. The minister said Jordan could get $325 million in loans through the World Bank, thus contributing to increasing foreign currency reserves and helping address the balance of payments deficit.

The minister expected a drop in the prices of consumer goods. The price rise during this year will not exceed 10 per cent, compared with 25 per cent last year, he said. However, he expected a further price decrease during the year 1991.

VOL Reports Release of French, Belgian Hostages

NC1004073090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group, Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC] released French woman Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian companion Fernand Houtekins, and their two-year-old daughter Sophie in Beirut this morning. According to an AFP correspondent, the hostages were handed over to the French Embassy in Beirut. It is worth mentioning that the hostages have been held since 8 November 1987.

AL-SHIRA' on Hostage Release Negotiations

NC1004082090 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] The negotiations which were recently conducted to bring about the release of a number of foreign hostages [not further identified] held in Lebanon have been frozen by problems over the sum of money which will be paid to the kidnappers for the hostages' release.

However, the negotiations, which are expected to resume, will revolve around the amount set by representatives of the kidnappers for the release of the hostages.

Al-Hirawi 'Seriously Considering' Entering East

NC0704091190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] A high-level political source has told WAKALAT AL-ANBA' AL-SUHUFIYAH WORLD NEWS AGENCY that President Ilyas al-Hirawi is seriously considering entering the eastern area to take over the army barracks in response to repeated appeals made to the legitimate government. The source noted entry into the eastern area would be peaceful, as the state does not want to become a party to any conflict.

The agency said Brigadier General Paul Faris, with the soldiers who support him, intend soon to join the forces of Army Commander General Emil Lahhud. The agency said Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has advised Faris to do so to prove his goodwill after he called on the legitimate government to enter the eastern area and take over the army barracks.

Defense Minister on Damascus Talks, Al-Ta'if

NC0804104990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Following his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss this morning, Defense Minister Albert Mansur said discussions during his recent visit to Damascus dealt with two main issues: the legitimate authority assuming control of institutions in the various Lebanese areas, particularly in the eastern area, and implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and continuing moves in that direction.

Minister Mansur explained that his contacts in the Syrian capital were very positive and said complete understanding was reached on these two issues.

The defense minister briefed the prime minister on the contacts he had in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and [Syrian Chief of Staff] General Hikmat al-Shihabi. He also will brief President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the results of these contacts.

Minister Mansur affirmed the legitimate government will take steps to take over the institutions and impose its authority gradually throughout Lebanese territory. He explained the issue is not just one of taking over military barracks, but rather taking over all state institutions. The cabinet will make a decision regard this, which will be in accordance with the interests of legitimacy and the people. He affirmed legitimacy's conditions are contained in the al-Ta'if agreement. Coming under the authority of legitimacy means accepting the national agreement reached in al-Ta'if.

Phalangist Leaders Sa'adah, Bakhus Return

NC0704190090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah and Deputy August Bakhus arrived at the al-Qula'at military airport aboard a private plane today. Dr. Sa'adah told reporters at the airport that during his meeting with them in Rabat, he had asked the tripartite Arab committee members to call for an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

In response to a question, Dr. Sa'adah praised Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja's call for the legitimate government to take over the army barracks in Beirut, Kasrawan, and Jubayl.

Responding to another question, he said the meetings in Bkirki [seat of Maronite patriarchate] aim to show support for the legitimacy and the need for extending its authority over the eastern areas.

For his part, Deputy Bakhus pointed out the Arab and international atmosphere is encouraging and appropriate for a final settlement. He added: Our return is a prelude to the return of all the evacuees, and there is an intention to expand the government to represent all the factions.

Lahd Denies Israeli Plans To Annex Territory

NC0804100190 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, April 8 (AFP)—The head of Israel's proxy militia in southern Lebanon has dismissed reports that Israel was trying to annex land in the area and said road work underway in the region was only "security-related."

Former Army General Antoine Lahd told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he received one million dollars each month to pay some 2,000 fighters in the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

SLA fighters and Israeli troops are deployed in the Israeli-imposed "security zone"—a buffer zone that extends across 1,000 square kilometers (400 square miles) inside southern Lebanon—representing one-tenth of Lebanon.

"The security of northern Israel depends on security in southern Lebanon and therefore I have to have close ties with the Israeli Army because I cannot face alone the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Iranians and their allies," he said.

"The Israeli Army is building military roads in certain areas while in other regions, near Jewish settlements of northern Israel, it is setting up barbed wire," he said.

But Israel "has no intention to annex any part of Lebanese territory" and the work is only "security-related", he said, speaking at the SLA headquarters here at Marj 'Uyun.

"Yes, Israel is erecting barbed wire on Lebanese territory, but the official border with Lebanon remains the electrified barrier further south," the 57-year-old SLA commander said.

Lebanon last month filed an official complaint with the United Nations accusing Israel of building a road in Shab'a, east of here, to place two farms representing some 40 square kilometers (16 square miles) under its control.

The government said 12 other farms in Shab'a—near the Lebanon-Israel-Syria border area—have been progressively annexed by Israel since 1967.

It also accused Israel of annexing 20 square kilometers (eight square miles) in two other border regions in June 1989 to build roads there. One report said Israeli troops opened fire on U.N. peacekeepers who tried to investigate.

"When I took over the command of the SLA, the Israelis assured me that their only concern was the security of northern Israel and that they had no desire to acquire any part of Lebanon," said Gen. Lahd.

He stressed that he only accepted the command of the SLA in 1984 after receiving such assurances.

"The day when Israel decides to carry out work to annex any part of the territory I will leave this region and formally announce their plans," he said.

But he stressed that the unspecified numbers of Israeli troops deployed in southern Lebanon would be withdrawn "once the conditions are met." He did not elaborate, saying only that Syrian-backed President Ilyas al-Hirawi knew what was required.

Gen. Lahd added that the creation of a Palestinian state in Jordan could help end Lebanon's problems.

Asked to comment on reports that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was boosting its military potential in Lebanon, Gen. Lahd said: "I am not afraid of that because I have the support of Israel, a strong state."

Algeria's Ghazali Comments on Arab Committee

NC0704091890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] In a statement to AL-NAHAR newspaper, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali has said: What we are concerned about now is how to bolster our assistance to the legitimate Lebanese Government. 'Awn so far has constituted the main and sole obstacle to implementing the al-Ta'if agreement. The problem will continue unless 'Awn hands over the legitimate institutions under his control. Every day he fails to do so will increase the destruction in Lebanon. History, hence, will hold 'Awn responsible.

Ghazali asserted the tripartite committee encourages every Lebanese, Arab, or international initiative designed to strengthen legitimacy in Lebanon. He said: Since January, we have concentrated on obtaining material aid for Lebanon, because we in Algeria do not have the resources to respond to Lebanon's needs. We ask the tripartite committee, all the Arab states, and the countries of the world to do what they can regarding this.

He noted the tripartite committee countries have not received any response to the idea of convening an Arab summit conference, which was raised in the committee's report to the Arab states. He said Syria supports the al-Ta'if agreement and its implementation. He noted the Vatican now better understands the situation, in view of the recent developments. It seems there is a chance of convincing the Vatican the unity of the Christians, which it supports, only can be achieved through legitimacy, as part of the unity of all Lebanese, he stated. He said he is optimistic there will be progress in the Vatican's position.

Sha'ban Urges 'All-Out War' Against Israel

NC0704183790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Lebanon, has called for establishing an Islamic union in the region to confront the Zionist entity's conspiracies and launch an all-out war against the Zionists.

In his Friday sermons in Tripoli yesteday, he said: We demand all the Arabs launch an all-out attack on the Zionist entity and unite to destroy the Zionists, instead of attacking the Islamic Republic and Islam.

His Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban also criticized Arab organizations and forums, calling them agents of international colonialism. His eminence exhorted the Muslims to rise against Zionism and political Maronism in the region.

'Awn Army Personnel Joining 'Neutral Forces'

NC0704143990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] It has been learned large numbers of Lebanese Army personnel have begun to leave the areas under General 'Awn's control and join the neutral army forces.

It also has been learned Major Antoine Khalaf and scores of army personnel have joined the neutral army command during the past days.

Lubrani Reportedly Met 'Awn, Ja'ja' in Beirut

NC0704185590 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes resumed today between Michel 'Awn's Maronite army and Samir Ja'ja's Phalangist forces. AL-SHIRA' magazine reports in its latest edition that the Zionist envoy Uri Lubrani [coordinator of Israeli affairs in southern Lebanon] arrived secretly in East Beirut last week and met Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja'. He urged them to end fighting between their forces and to be careful not to carry out any action that might weaken Israel's position in Lebanon.

'Awn Radio on Evacuating Bodies From Al-Qulay'at

NC0804165290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Following the call Ja'ja' made to Major General [rank as heard] Lahhud to take delivery of the army barracks in the areas under his control and after the disclosure he had sent a message to the members of the Arab tripartite committee to confirm his support for the al-Ta'if agreement, his gunmen exploited the tacit truce in the free areas on the occasion of the holy feasts to carry out a cheap and vile operation in the al-Qulay'at area under the cover of a Red Cross humanitarian act. [passage omitted]

This morning Lebanese Red Cross vehicles left for al-Qulay'at to evacuate the bodies of seven Lebanese Forces militiamen who were killed during a recent attack there. Two Red Cross vehicles left the area of the army positions at 1045 today. At the same time, two other vehicles left the Lebanese Forces deployment area. Ja'ja's gunmen exploited the Red Cross humanitarian mission and tried to advance on the Army positions under the cover of the Red Cross vehicles. They opened fire on these vehicles to cover up their advance and to attempt to seize new positions. The Army responded to the fire to defend its positions and prevent Ja'ja's gunmen from sordidly exploiting the humanitarian mission for military gain.

The Red Cross units found themselves besieged by gunfire and were forced to retreat without succeeding in evacuating any of the dead bodies. It has been learned the gunmen did not intend to permit the Red Cross to evacuate the bodies because they were the bodies of fighters from Dayr al-Ahmar. The families of these fighters stated their sons sent letters to them saying they were refusing to fight alongside the Lebanese Forces gunmen. When they tried to escape during the battle, Ja'ja's gunmen killed them by shooting them in the head. The Lebanese Forces tried to cover up their hideous act by obstructing the role of the Red Cross and attempting to advance on the Army positions.

The Army succeeded in detaining one of the gunmen, who was in civilian clothing and tried to infiltrate under the cover of the Red Cross vehicles. The Army is dealing with the new situation. Clashes are taking place at this time to thwart the vile attempt.

'Awn Comments on Army Barracks, Excommunication

NC0804074190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] In an interview with REUTER NEWS AGENCY, 'Awn has said the plan to hand over the barracks in the eastern area to the army is the prelude to a new frustration for the army, unless the Lebanese Forces also surrenders its weapons. 'Awn affirmed the army under the command of General Lahhud will not fight against the al-Yarzah army, because the army is a single institution. He called on army Commander Gen. Lahhud not to involve the army in the conflict in the eastern area. 'Awn affirmed that the army can no longer coexist with any militia.

Regarding Patriarch Sfayr's threat to excommunicate him and Ja'ja', former army Commander Michel 'Awn said that the patriarch has no authority over him. 'Awn said he does not derive his authority from the church.

'Awn Calls for Second Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC0804152390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] In an interview with REUTER, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn stressed the army units controlled by Lahhud must not be involved in the conflict between the army and the Lebanese Forces in the eastern area. He urged Lahhud not to put his units between the two parties, because that would be a grave mistake and would be regarded as an alliance that must be prevented. He added it also would be a dangerous step for all sides because it would drive the Spinneys groups [al-Huss government] into a corner and is a prelude to a new frustration for the army because it will find itself in a position where it will be unable to defend itself in the event the Lebanese Forces refuse to hand over their weapons.

Gen. 'Awn emphasized the army no longer can coexist with any militia and said the 15-year experience has proved that. It was a bitter experience full of blood and crime, he added.

Gen. 'Awn said the army units under the command of Major General [rank as heard] Lahhud will not fight against the army because the army is one single institution. He said the Lebanese Forces have lost their cohesiveness and their ability to restore the unity of their political and military structures and eventually will destroy themselves.

Gen. 'Awn called for renegotiating the al-Ta'if agreement to produce al-Ta'if Two, which would be a prelude to new parliamentary elections under Arab and international supervision.

Regarding Patriarch Sfayr's threat of excommunication, Gen. 'Awn affirmed the patriarch has no authority over him. He said: I am not here in a Maronite capacity, and I do not derive my authority and legitimacy from the church. I was appointed according to the Lebanese Constitution, and I am still in charge. All those who were appointed after the al-Ta'if agreement under any guise are illegitimate. I am carrying on in my position according to the Constitution, legitimacy, and the popular will.

'Awn: No Solution, Dialogue With Lebanese Forces

NC0904085190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn, who appears to be living in the past, has said there will be no political solution or political agreement with the Lebanese Forces, and no political dialogue with Dr. Ja'ja'.

Leaving aside the negative nature of this statement, 'Awn's comments address a point which never was raised, because the clear stand of the Lebanese Forces calls for a comprehensive solution and the entry of the legitimate authorities into East Beirut.

As part of his known contradictions, 'Awn asked: Who said I recognize the al-Ta'if accord? I want to persuade the Arab tripartite committee to conduct parliamentary elections shortly. I believe there can be no solution except based on concluding a new accord.

'Awn Calls for Army To Disarm Militias

NC0904142290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed there will be no political solution or agreements with the Lebanese Forces and that there will be no political dialogue with Dr. Samir Ja'ja', considering the results of the dialogue conducted through the mediation committee.

He said he wants to persuade the tripartite Arab committee to conduct parliamentary elections in two, three, or six months. He added this does not mean he accepts the results of the al-Ta'if meeting.

In an interview with AL-ANWAR, Gen. 'Awn said the situation in Lebanon is a longstanding problem, and the al-Ta'if accord is part of it now. He stressed there will be no dialogue except one leading to a new agreement that would cancel what was adopted at al-Ta'if and consequently be the solution.

Regarding the call by former deputy August Bakhus for a dialogue about his beliefs and those of former deputies, he said: I am open to dialogue. Let them come to B'abda. But on what basis do they want the dialogue? Will it be based on the fait accompli, which they want to convince me of, or will it be based on a search for a new solution? [passage omitted]

He then asked: Who do these former deputies represent? I represent certain forces that reject al-Ta'if. But whom will they represent if I conduct a dialogue with them? He added: If I convince them of my view, will they be able to change the al-Ta'if accord, the results of which have been imposed on some parts of Lebanon? Can they eliminate its consequences? [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn stressed the Lebanese Army is united by its objectives, and it is the guarantor of the citizens' security and property. He said: I have warned that the entry of units that are under Brigadier General Lahhud could be a cover for the Ja'ja' militia. He reiterated his insistence that the purpose of the Army's entry should be to disarm this militia, saying there can be no coexistence between the Army and this militia after the experience of the past 15 years. He warned the Army might fall into a trap if it enters the eastern area. He added: The Army first must enter to disarm the militia and, second, it must not become a hostage to this militia, which is present everywhere around the barracks. I say this out of our experience with them and out of our desire to reach solutions and not new complications that would require us to search for solutions for them.

Ja'ja' on 'Comprehensive' Takeover of Eastern Area

NC0904202090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified Voice of Lebanon reporter on 9 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Doctor, your move to hand over the military barracks to the Army of the legitimate government was welcomed by Washington and the tripartite Arab committee. General 'Awn, however, has warned General Lahhud against entering the eastern area to take over these barracks, lest this should be a cover for the Lebanese Forces or a trap for the Army under Lahhud's command. What is Dr. Ja'ja's opinion

about the Arab and international welcome, on the one hand, and Gen. 'Awn's warning, on the other?

[Ja'ja'] First, regarding international and Arab support for the move to hand over the barracks, this was natural and expected, because these states often have expressed their desire for the legitimate government to take over all institutions in Lebanon. The policies of these countries, anyhow, consistently have favored the entry of legitimacy into the eastern area and the imposition of the legitimate authority on all Lebanese territory. We hope they will maintain this position, and we hope their position will extend beyond the eastern area to cover all Lebanese territory.

Regarding Gen. 'Awn's warning to Gen. Lahhud, I understand from this that Gen. 'Awn is concerned about Gen. Lahhud. The first thing I want to say is: Does Gen. 'Awn recognize Gen. Lahhud? He must first clarify his position regarding this. Everything has a limit in this world, and maneuvering also has a limit. Gen. 'Awn first should make it clear whether he recognizes Gen. Lahhud. Second, if he is concerned about the Army and whether there is a trap being laid for it, I imagine the biggest trap laid for the Army in its history was the trap Gen. 'Awn laid. [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn, therefore, must first define his stand toward Gen. Lahhud. We have defined our position. If he is concerned about the Army, he must take his hands off what remains of the Army, so we can try to reunite this Army to make it the Army of all Lebanese, the Army we know, and the Army we want, in cooperation or under the management and command of Gen. Lahhud.

[Reporter] Doctor, some media are saying the legitimate government is hesitating about dispatching the Army or the civil administration to the eastern area. Is this correct?

[Ja'ja'] I certainly have not yet seen any hesitation. The coming days will be the best proof of this. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] One of the newspapers has quoted Gen. 'Awn as saying there are no political plans or plans for a political dialogue with the Lebanese Forces and the deputies in light of the results of the mediation committee dialogue. What is your opinion of this remark?

[Ja'ja'] In my opinion, the word "dialogue" does not exist in 'Awn's vocabulary. If the word "dialogue" existed in his vocabulary, we would have avoided many of the problems in the country and in the eastern area. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Doctor, Gen. 'Awn was reported as having promised a politician that there would be pleasant surprises in Lebanon soon. Do you expect anything of this kind, Doctor?

[Ja'ja'] We only expect sad and negative surprises from Gen. 'Awn. [passage omitted] We have had many surprises in the past year and a half. We were surprised by destruction, ruination, failure, death, wrong policies, disintegration, drought, deterioration, and everything else except pleasant surprises. Therefore, I hope Gen. 'Awn will not give us any more of his surprises, because the people are fed up. They have become used to frequent promises, and already know the meaning of Gen. 'Awn's surprises. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is your invitation to the legitimate government to enter the eastern area limited to the military aspect, or does it extend to the various official institutions, such as public security, the gendarmerie, the Foreign Ministry, the port, and so forth?

[Ja'ja'] Actually, our invitation initially was concerned with the military aspect, in view of the importance and urgency of this aspect at present. But later the invitation was extended and now includes all the state services and ports. In other words, the legitimate government or the state is being invited to take over all its utilities, administrative departments, and institutions in the eastern area, beginning with the gendarmerie, the police, the Foreign Ministry, and all the other departments, public security, the Army barracks, and other state departments and ports. This is a complete and comprehensive invitation for the state to take over its institutions and begin again to offer the necessary services to the citizens. The citizen now yearns not for freedom, but for electricity first and then for freedom. He yearns for electricity as much as he yearns for freedom. The citizen yearns to use his telephone, to be able to walk on the street, to have running water, to return to normal life, and to feel like a human being. Hence, our invitation to legitimacy and to the state to take over its institutions and to provide the necessary services to the citizen, because the citizen can bear no more.

[Reporter] Doctor, this answer leads us to pose another question: Will this move help resolve the problem of the civil servants, who have not received their salaries for the past three months? Will they be able to receive their salaries from the Central Bank after the legitimate government takes over the institutions and ports?

[Ja'ja'] In my opinion, there is no doubt about this. This will be an inevitable result of the state's assumption of its institutions and departments. I hope the coming days will bring something new regarding this. I hope this month, or next month at the latest, the civil servants will be able to receive their salaries from the Central Bank.

[Reporter] We are at the beginning of holy week, and resurrection is celebrated at the end of this week, as you know. When will Lebanon's resurrection come?

[Ja'ja'] I think Lebanon's sufferings are about to end. I think this period marks the end of Lebanon's periodic sufferings, and the beginning of its periodic resurrection. We hope we then will move on toward the final resurrection, which still demands a great deal of work and efforts. I think this is the beginning of the end of the dark period, and the beginning of a new era, God willing, in which we will be able to rebuild what was destroyed and to begin seriously thinking how we want to solve the Lebanese problem and move on toward a new Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Calls on 'Awn To Follow Ja'ja'

NC1004080290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has stated: We support the call on the legitimate government to take control of all areas. We hope that General 'Awn will follow the action by Dr. Ja'ja' so Lebanon can rest from all these tragedies.

Concerning French moves, Dr. Sa'adah said: According to information available to me, the French view on all Lebanese issues has changed. This applies to French officials, the French people, and the French opposition parties.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Dr. Sa'adah stressed that he will retract his resignation from the government after this government is expanded and becomes a national-unity government. He declared that he will not participate in the parliamentary debate on constitutional reform before the legitimate government returns to its seat and the deputies return to their homes.

'Violent' Fighting Reported on Al-Qulay'at Front

NC1004061590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Violent clashes are currently taking place between the Lebanese forces and 'Awn's gunmen on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front. The fighting erupted after the Lebanese Forces intercepted an infiltration attempt by 'Awn's gunmen, who ran over a land mine, suffering a number of casualties. 'Awn's artillery shelled the Lebanese Forces positions to cover the withdrawal of his gunmen. The Lebanese Forces replied by shelling 'Awn's positions.

The violent and furious clashes are continuing, accompanied by artillery and rocket bombardments.

Shelling Abates After Cease-Fire Reached

NC1004091290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The attacks by 'Awn's gunmen have abated after a cease-fire was reached at 0930 today.

The random shelling of incendiary shells from 'Awn positions in Zabbugha, Rumyah, Jurat al-Ballut, 'Ayn al-Kharrubah, and Qurnat Shahwwan covered the areas of al-Qulay'at, 'Ajaltun, J'ita, Zuq Musbih, and Juniyah.

Hizballah Says Amal Shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0704090090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] An Hizballah information source has stated the Amal Movement and Elie Hubayqah's [former Lebanese Forces commander] gangs resumed their attacks on the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday, using Grad rockets. This barbaric step displays the two groups' hatred for the faithful fighters and our kinfolk, who embrace resistance as a manifestation of their dignity and honor.

The source added these attacks were carried out as follows: The Kafr Milki village was subjected to heavy-caliber machine gun fire originating from Sarba, the headquarters of the butcher Hubayqah, early yesterday. The same village then came under mortar fire from the Hubayqah emplacements in 'Arab Salim at 0800. At 1230, the township of Jba' was subjected to a heavy Grad rocket attack from the Amal Movement's emplacements in Zifta. The bombardment continued until 1300, when 'Ayn Qana and 'Ayn Bu Siwar came under concentrated bombardment, causing a number of casualties.

The information source called on all officials to adopt a responsible stand to curb these criminals and lift the siege imposed on the resistance.

Amal, Hizballah Trade Artillery Fire in South

NC0904173190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The Amal Movement and Hizballah traded artillery fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah this afternoon. According to an Amal security source, Hizballah groups at 1600 began shelling the villages of Sarba, Kafr Bayt, Humin, Jurnayya, and Kafr Hatta with field artillery and heavy rockets at the rate of five rounds a minute. The source said three citizens were injured and many houses damaged.

Amal Group Attacks Lahdist Patrol; Casualties

NC1004095190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] A Lebanese resistance group of the Amal Movement detonated an explosive charge wired to a number of 60-mm mortar rounds as a Lahd agent mechanized patrol was passing on the al-Tiri-Haddathah road at 0710 today. The powerful explosion put an armored personnel carrier out of commission, killing and wounding all its personnel. Shortly afterward, the enemy bombarded Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and the outskirts of al-Tiri using tanks and heavy- and medium-caliber machine guns. A number of houses have been damaged.

An Amal Movement statement noted that while the enemy shelling was still continuing at the time of this newscast, the movement fighters managed to return safely to their base.

U.S. Senator Dole, Delegation Arrive 8 Apr

JN0804153290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1513 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 Apr (SANA)—Senator Robert Dole, the U.S. Senate's Republican leader, arrived in Damascus today heading a delegation of five U.S. Senate members and an official from the U.S. State Department's Middle East section on a visit to last several days.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol and America Departments, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus received the U.S. Senate delegation at Damascus International Airport.

Mr. Dole told SANA he is visiting Syria to become more acquainted with the country, especially since Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad play an important role in the region.

Dole added he will conduct talks with Syrian officials on a number of issues and topics related to the Middle East. He also said he will make further statements after he meets with President al-Asad.

Meet With Al-Asad; Depart

JN0904160890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1100 today received Senator Robert Dole, Republican minority leader in the U.S. Senate, who heads a delegation of five Senate members and an official from the Near East desk at the U.S. State Department. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and American Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian attended.

Senator Dole conveyed to the president greetings from President George Bush. President al-Asad thanked him and conveyed through him his greetings and best wishes to President Bush. The talks touched on peace efforts in the Middle East, with the Americans expressing their belief in the importance of Syria's role in the comprehensive peace process in light of its regional and international status and the intelligence, courage, and political wisdom of President Hafiz al-Asad. The president explained that since the seventies, Syria has been supporting a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It believes the peace produced by this solution must be comprehensive, especially since it has become certain separate deals bring no peace. Syria also believes convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East may help achieve a just and comprehensive peace through providing the necessary guarantees. The president noted Israel's opposition to the international peace conference in an attempt to evade such guarantees.

The talks also dealt with the situation in Lebanon. The president stressed Syria's support for the national charter document agreed upon in al-Ta'if and its backing of the legitimate government produced by this document. He said: We stand at the side of any party supporting this document as a solution to the Lebanese problem and acts toward the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions. Relations between Syria and the United States also were discussed, with both sides expressing a desire to improve and promote them.

Senator Robert Dole and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by al-Shar', the directors of the America and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Shar' Comments on Visit

JN0904192090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Following his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad today, U.S. Senator Robert Dole conducted a news conference. Arab and foreign newsmen attended. [passage omitted]

In reply to reporters' questions on the Senate delegation's visit to Syria, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said it was a good opportunity for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Senator Dole and the other members of the delegation to exchange views. Al- Shar' said the visit's results were positive. He said he hoped these results would contribute to attaining a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

Faruq al-Shar' noted that during the Senate delegation's visit, there was a general review of the state of affairs in the region and in Lebanon, and that the impressions formed will help propel relations between Syria and the United states toward better understanding. They also will help solve problems and reduce tension in the region.

In reply to more questions, al-Shar' declared a just solution in the region should be comprehensive and lead to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding his remarks, the foreign minister said: What is more important is the emphasis we place on attaining a comprehensive settlement in the region, though not through partial and separate solutions, because we believe these solutions will not lead to peace. He added: Past experience has confirmed this. Al-Shar' stressed the region will not enjoy real peace if there is no comprehensive settlement.

TISHRIN Cited on East Beirut Developments

JN0804094290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries, TISHRIN comments on the developments in East Beirut. Under the headline "Translating Intentions into Tangible Reality," the

paper says it has become clear to all Lebanese that the crisis has reached its peak, and that it is high time for proposing drastic solutions and ending the suffering of the Lebanese citizens in East Beirut.

TISHRIN affirms the suffering only can end when support for the legitimate government is declared and when this government's conditions, which in fact are the conditions of a united and Arab Lebanon, are accepted.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that ending the suffering of the fraternal Lebanese in East Beirut requires enabling the legitimate government and its troops to extend its authority in East Beirut and removing all military manifestations there. The paper adds: The ordeal of East Beirut has proved that there is no future for a united Lebanon when the country's unity and national accord are undermined.

Press on Peace, Israeli Stand, Jewish Immigration

JN1004093490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Zionist Expansion and the Lost Peace Opportunities," AL-BA'TH says: Syria has found the international conference a suitable framework for achieving Middle East peace, especially since it constitutes an auxiliary element for achieving the necessary requirements for a just and comprehensive peace. He who follows the course of events in the region will realize that Israel always has evaded and rejected this formula, because it is not ready to give any guarantees, and basically because it is not ready for peace.

After reviewing the expansionist Israeli plan, AL-BA'TH says: Syria always has proven that in as much as it supports efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to eliminate threats of war in the region, it is not ready to relinquish any part of its rights and the Arabs' legitimate rights to their land and destiny. Syria is building its intrinsic powers in the direction that always will enable it, in all circumstances, to defend itself and Arab rights, and to stop the Zionist expansion, which is pushing events in the region to the brink of explosion, thus ignoring all the opportunities the international community provides from time to time to achieve peace.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: The conviction thus has become stronger, not only regarding the importance of Syria's role in the peace process, but also its seriousness to achieve this peace, with the condition it should be a just and comprehensive peace based on guaranteeing the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their national soil. Israel strongly rejects this, which proves the Zionist enemy is the side hampering the peace process and obstructing efforts to conduct an international peace conference.

On Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, AL-THAWRAH says: This silence over Israel's crimes in the occupied territories, this unlimited declared support for Jewish immigration and the immigrants, and some U.S. institutions' stands in favor of Israel and the Zionist Movement—all escalate the conflagration in the region, eliminate the prospects of a just peace, and give a free hand to Israel's aggression and expansion to do what it wants and likes. In brief, all this represents a frank declaration of hostility to the Arabs and their legitimate objectives and aspirations. It also is a frank declaration bestowing legitimacy on the Zionist movement and its expansionist objectives in the region and the world after the world condemned Zionism 15 years ago and considered it a racist movement.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Such a frank declaration should awaken the Arab conscience and encourage it to defend its existence before it is too late, and before more territories, rights, and dignity are lost.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Leader Hekmatyar Interviewed

NC0904092790 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 3 Apr 90 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Afhganistan's Hezb-e Eslami group, by MILLIYET correspondent Vahap Yazaroglu; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yazaroglu] Although it has been a year since the Soviet troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan, you are still not close to a victory. During that time, the whole world expected you to oust Najibullah and occupy Kabul in a few months. What happened? Why have you been unable to achieve concrete results?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, that is true. No one believed that the Kabul regime could remain in power for such a long time. There are many reasons for that. Actually, we are confronted with an international collaboration against our struggle, which has been embarked on by the countries which do not wish to see the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan. These countries believe that a mujahidin and Islamic state must not be established in Afghanistan. They regard such an Islamic state as a threat to their regional and international interests. Consequently, they are doing everything within their power to obstruct the mujahidin movement. They are well aware that they will not be able to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs if the mujahidin achieve victory. In view of this, they expect a political settlement in Afghanistan through a reconciliation between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is why our victory has been delayed.

The mujahidin placed 241 of the 282 residential areas under their control immediately after the Soviet withdrawal. The Kabul regime is able to control only a few cities. However, these cities are completely besieged. All the roads to it have been cut off. The Kabul regime is surviving only through air links. Nor do the people living in Afghanistan want the Kabul regime, which is besieged and which controls only five percent of the country. [passage omitted]

[Yazaroglu] Why has the United States, which has allocated billions of dollars for the mujahidin movement in Afghanistan for years, decided to withdraw its support and change its policy?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, the U.S. move to change its policy on Afghanistan must be surprising. However, we know the reason. Although the United States seemed to support us right from the beginning, that country is against the mujahidin's political objectives and aims. The United States does not want the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan. Instead, it prefers a communist regime to remain in power. In fact, the United States has officially disclosed that it prefers the Najibullah regime to remain in power until a government, which will be acceptable by that country, is established in Afghanistan. Washington and Moscow have agreed not to have a mujahidin government in Afghanistan. The United States supported the mujahidin against the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union withdrew, the United States did not stand to gain much.

The United States has never sided with a movement thaat sincerely stuggled for freedom. Actually, it has never supported Islamic freedom movements. That country supported our struggle for the sake of its own interests, not for the sake of freedom and independence. Instead of supporting a democratically elected government or a democratic election system, they are supporting the tribal system. They wish to set up an election council, which will be composed of representatives of various tribes in Afghanistan. Furthermore, they wish to include the Kabul regime's representatives among them.

[Yazaroglu] What is the reason for the dispute between the mujahidin groups, particularly between your group and the others?

[Hekmatyar] As is true of political parties with their differing views, we too have our own disagreements and differing views. We are trying to create a new and free Afghan nation. Thus, we must be very careful when we take a new step. Considering the present situation in Afghanistan, we need a very strong and stable government. We need an administration capable of dealing with all the problems. This requires a very strong alliance and cooperation among all the mujahidin parties in Afghanistan. Unless an authentic election is held, a strong government cannot be established, nor can effective cooperation be established among the mujahidin.

We want the future government of Afghanistan to come to power through elections. No one can impose a foreign electoral system on our people, and no one can decide the future of Afghanistan from outside the country. That is why we insist on the idea of an elected council. Only such a council can decide the future of Afghanistan, draw up its constitution, and establish its government. All of this was decided by the Shura [consultative assembly], which met in Islamabad a year ago. The council also established a provisional government. Two conditions were agreed on when the government was established. The first called for general elections in the territories controlled by the mujahidin within a period of six months.... The second called for the establishment of a government within a month after the elections. We do not need a government in Peshawar. The new government that will be formed will not be one in exile. It will discharge its duties in the territories which have been captured by the mujahidin in Afghanistan.

Regrettably, neither elections were held nor a government was established in Afghanistan, so we have withdrawn from the present government. We now want the elections to be held. A number of small parties are afraid of the elections. They do not trust their own supporters. They fear that their situation will be exposed when the

elections are held and the results will show how much support they have from the Afghan people. They are continuously delaying the elections because they do not feel confident. Furthermore, they believe that they can have a place in a government which may come to power if the Afghan problem is settled between the superpowers through international cooperation. This is something which cannot be achieved through elections. Foreign forces are creating obstructions to the elections. If elections are held the way we want them to be held, no one will be able to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs. No one will be able to secure gains and benefits from the future government of Afghanistan.... That is why they want the problems to remain unresolved and that is why they want the mujahidin to be unable to hold elections.

However, I can categorically guarantee that the elections will be held and an independent government will be established in Afghanistan. No one can go against this because that is the wish of the entire people of Afghanistan. There is no place for a government in Afghanistan that does not come to power through elections. Furthermore, a government does not exist now. The term of the government has already expired. We now have to establish a new government. If the other parties are ready to hold elections and if they agree in principle to hold elections in accordance with our suggestion, we are ready to reach an agreement wherever it may be. Everyone, including the mujahidin parties in Peshawar and in Iran and the political intellectuals who live in foreign countries, must sit together and reach an agreement on the establishment of a new government. We are ready for this....

Paper Comments on Mojaddedi Government

LD0904085190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 8, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: In these days, the Western mass media are publishing reports as if Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the opposition interim government, is going to repair his government by making new appointments in an attempt to improve the situation of his government which does not have any legitimacy even from the point of view of their supporters.

The opposition interim government which was established as a ridiculous show a year ago was ridiculed right from is beginning by its rival groups, refugees and local commander, of the opposition armed groups. Six months had not yet elapsed that hostilities among the seven-alliance leaders emerged and Gulbuddin who was assigned as so-called foreign minister boycotted the said government and called it invalid and the differences between them as well as other groups in Peshawar are intensifying day by day. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi has recently confirmed that Gulbuddin has described his government invalid and has not attended the meetings in the past seven months.

Later, he was forced to assign Sayaf Wahabi as care-taker of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but without any improvement in that ministry and now he gave the chance to Burhanuddin Rabbani become foreign minister.

These developments show that on the one hand Mojaddedi substantiates the inefficiency of Sayaf and on the other hand ratifies the weaknesses of his government. It is quite ridiculous that contrary to the decision by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi on his appointment as foreign minister, Rabbani has said that he does not agree to his new appointment as he was not consulted about it.

Thus, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi is trying in vain to display Rawalpindi-made governemnt as legal. This government is illegal and shattering not only in view of the members of the said government but also in accordance with the view of Rawalpindi-made council and consequently Mojaddedi's desperate efforts does not reach anywhere.

Defense Minister Meets 'Arafat's Special Envoy

LD0804042590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 6 BAKHTAR—Full Gen. Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, RA's [Republic of Afghanistan] defence minister today in the afternon met with Abu-Khalid, special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. During the meeting, Watanjar informed Abu-Khalid about the military-political situation of Afghanistan and delivered gift of the Defence Ministry to visiting guest. Then Abu Khalid talked on the friendship and good relations existed between the peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan [as received]. The sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interests. At the end of the meting, Abu-Khalid handed over gift of the Palestinian leadership to Watanjar.

Recent Military Activities Reported

LD0504191690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, Apr. 4, BAKHTAR—A concerned military source said to a BAKHTAR military correspondent here today that during the past week (March 28-April 3, 1990) 2,860 armed and 32,000 unarmed men belonging mainly to the Mojaddedi and Rabbani groupings stopped their armed activities in the Pushtin Zarghun, Adraskan and Obe Districts, Herat Province as well as in the Badakhshan, Qandahar, Faryab and Parvan Provinces.

As a result of the retaliatory attacks of the government forces carried out in the Nangarhar, Qandahar, Faryab, Paktia and Kabul Provinces, and in the Khowst Grand District 319 enemies were cleared from the battle scenes, 13 servicemen and 5 civilians were wounded.

The heavy clashes occurred between the Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Nabi groupings in the Laghman Province, took

the lives of 25 extremists, another 23 wounded and 30 others from the Gulbuddin side were captured by the Mawlawi Nabi men, six houses demolished and 5 civilians killed. The hostile groups used ground-to-ground rockets against each other.

Reports say that during the explosions which took place in the arms and ammunition depots of Mawlawi Yunis and Sayaf in the Khowst Grand District and Laghman Province 3 Saudi Wahhabis and 2 guards were killed and 5 others, including 2 Wahhabis, wounded.

The encharges of the ministry of the state of security bought 2 ground to air Sterilla-2 rockets from the extremists in the Baghlan Province. [sentence as received]

Notes number 1190-1199 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan from the provisions of the Geneva accords and resolution number 44 of the UN General Assembly on the solution of situation around Afghanistan were delivered to the office of the UN secretary general in Kabul. The office was demanded to convey contents of the notes to the person of the UN secretary general as soon as possible.

'Ambush' Conducted Against Konduz 'Extremists'

LD0604150990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] In carrying out an ambush operation in the surroundings of Khanabad district, Konduz province, the personnel of the Ministry of State Security have crushed a group of extremists who intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that, in the course of the ambush, 10 Pakistani-backed extremists, including Abdol Qahar, a ringleader of the Rabbani group, were crushed; and another seven men including Shaykh Nur also known as Dr. Osman, carrying with them 15 light machine guns, one ZK-1 and one rocket launcher, were arrested by the courageous state security forces.

State Security Seizes Arms, Kills 50 'Extremists'

LD0804061890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, Apr. 7, BAKHTAR—Personnel of the State Security of Nangarhar Province seized a large car van of arms and ammunition of extremists last night in that province during an operation. In this operation 50 guards of the abovementioned arms caravan were killed and 16 others alongside with about 40 mules loaded with arms and ammunitions, were captured.

Bangladesh

Memo of Understanding Signed With USSR

BK0704164290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to cooperate with the [word indistinct] Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Soviet Union by further expansion of existing close relations. They will also explore the possibility of joint venture investment. A memorandum of understanding between the two sides was signed in Dhaka today.

Ershad Orders Ban Lifted on Three Publications

BK0904124890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 9 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Monday [9 April] ordered the lifting of ban of three publications that were closed down under Bangladesh's tough Special Powers Act, the official BSS [Bangladesh News Agency] news agency reported. The order came when union leaders representing Journalists Union called on Mr. Ershad, who also directed Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who is in charge of the Ministry of Information, to "examine matters relating to other banned periodicals and take necessary action," the agency said.

The daily MILLAT and weekly ASHE DIN JAI, banned last year, and the weekly ROBBAR, banned in 1988, benefitted from Mr. Ershad's order, which came a day after members of the Dhaka Union of Journalists demonstrated for the repeal of the 1974 Special Powers Act. They had said journalists employed by the banned newspapers were suffering as a result of the closures, adding that authorities should act urgently to reopen the newspapers.

The Special Powers Act has allegedly been invoked at random to ban newspapers and detain opponents of the Bangladesh Government.

Mr. Ershad reportedly sad he hoped the publications would "uphold professionalism and uphold responsible journalism."

MILLAT is owned by the opposition Freedom Party of Faruq Rahman, a retired colonel who was one of the key figures in the 1975 coup that toppled the Awami League regime of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The ROBBAR is owned by the major Ittefaq group of publications, while the other weekly has a small readership. All were banned, according to the orders, for "publishing prejudicial" reports.

MILLAT sources said the editor was summoned a meeting of the newspaper's staff soon after the announcement, possibly to work out details for republication.

The popular Bengali weekly, JAI JAI DIN, banned under the same act in 1987, still awaits republication.

The ROBBAR weekly had been fighting a court battle against the government and the hearing had resumed recently.

Ban Reportedly Lifted

BK0904160390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The government has withdrawn ban on publication of the daily MILLAT and two weeklies, ROBBAR and ASHE DIN JAI. President Ershad issued the order for lifting the ban when leaders of the Editors Council and the Journalist Union met him in Dhaka today and requested him to release the papers. Responding to their request, the president gave the order and expressed the hope that the newspaper and weeklies will uphold professionalism and pursue responsible journalism. The president authorized Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed to examine matters relating to other banned periodicals and take necessary action.

India

Pakistani Civil Defense Reportedly Mobilizing

BK1004125290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The Civil Defense Organization of Pakistan is reported to be mobilizing its units in the light of the situation in the Kashmir Valley. The units have been placed in an advanced state of preparedness, particularly in the Pak-occupied Kashmir and in areas close to the Indo-Pak border in the Punjab Province.

Singh: Government To Deal Firmly With Separatists

BK0904094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has reiterated that the government will deal firmly with the secessionist elements in Kashmir and Punjab. He said these elements are getting encouragement from across the border. The problem in Kashmir and Punjab is not communal in nature as India has learned to live in communal harmony despite having different religions and sects. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed the hope that these problems will be solved soon. At the same time, the economic development of Kashmir and Punjab will not to be allowed to suffer because of the prevailing situation. The prime minister made these remarks while answering questions at the fifth national meeting organized by the World Economic Forum and Confederation of Engineering Industries in New Delhi today. Top businessmen, industrialists, and chief executives from India and abroad are participating in the two-day deliberations.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. V.P. Singh said India welcomes foreign investment, but it will be selective in areas of priority for national development. Special consideration will be given to projects which have a large export potential. The prime minister declared that India intends to fully participate in the process of globalization of technology and investment since the foreign investment can help in modernization of the country's industry.

Police Fire on Protestors During Curfew; 1 Killed

BK0904162590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 9 (AFP)—Indian paramilitary troops and police killed one person and wounded seven when they opened fire Monday [9 April] in Kashmir to disperse curfew violators protesting a crackdown on Muslim separatists, officials said. The troops fired into crowds of Muslims who defied a strict valley-wide curfew to pour out onto the streets at two places in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, the officials said.

The crowds were demonstrating against a crackdown on Muslim separatists that has resulted in the arrest of more than 200 people and the death Sunday of six top militants in gunbattles with security forces. They were also protesting alleged atrocities by security forces during house-to-house searches in the Kashmir Valley for three hostages being held by Muslim separatists.

One person was killed and seven were injured in Monday's incident, which came as Muslim separatists hanged a Muslim resident to death in the northern Kashmir town of Uri, said the officials in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital. The resident, identified as Abdullah Khan, was suspected by his killers of being a police informant.

Indian security forces have launched a massive hunt in Kashmir for three hostages held since Friday [6 April] by the youth wing of the secessionist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). The JKLF had threatened to kill the hostages by 3:00 p.m. (0930 GMT) Monday unless three jailed members were freed. The government rejected the demand and the deadline passed with no word on the fate of the hostages.

On Sunday [8 April], security forces shot dead two leading separatists and arrested three more in Srinagar. Four militants were killed in the mountain resort of Pahalgam, 60 kilometres (35 miles) from Srinagar in southern Kashmir.

Gujral Asks Pakistan To End Provocative Postures

BK1004010090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has asked Pakistan to stop its provocative postures and

create a conducive atmosphere for any meaningful dialogue on bilateral issues. He said India will never be found wanting for constructive cooperation.

Replying to the debate on the demands for grants of his ministry in the Lok Sabha yesterday, Mr. Gujral declared that belligerance and warmongering are not the style of the National Front government. It is, however, alive to the threat posed by Pakistan on Kashmir.

Mr. Gujral referred to the Pakistan prime minister's statement that her country would wage a 1,000-year war with India and said this itself in a way concedes that Islamabad will not be able to grab Kashmir. Amid thumping of desks, the minister said the entire nation will see to it.

The minister referred to the basic foreign policy framework of the government and its efforts to improve relations with neighboring countries, notably Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Comments on Bangladesh, PRC Border

BK1004042490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has asked Pakistan to stop its provocative postures and create a conducive atmosphere for any meaningful dialogue on bilateral issues. He said India will never be found wanting for constructive cooperation. Replying to the debate on the demands for grant for his ministry in the Lok Sabha yesterday, Mr. Gujral declared that belligerance and warmongering are not the style of the National Front government. [passage omitted]

About the problem of illegal migrants from Bangladesh, Mr. Gujral said the government has conveyed its concern to Bangladesh. The issue will be taken up again at the meeting of the joint commission to be held next month in New Delhi.

Turning to Sino-Indian relations, the external affairs minister said the boundary problem is sought to be solved, keeping in view the mutuality of interests.

Paper Advises Bhutto To Abide by Simla Agreement

BK0604124990 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Mar 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The Only Alternative"]

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto's denial of any Pakistani involvement in Jammu and Kashmir flies in the face of a string of incontrovertible facts about the eruption of violence in the State in the last four weeks. The open threat of the Pak-based Kashmiri extremist leaders to send thousands of their followers across the line of actual control has been followed by serious incidents of infiltration. Also, the Pakistan Prime Minister's own speeches reiterating full Pakistani support for the so-called struggle of the Kashmiris for self-determination cannot but have emboldened the militants to try and create an explosive situation not only along the line of actual control but also across it on the eastern side. Nor is it fortuitous that the news of the kidnapping of Mir Mustafa, the former independent member of the J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] Assembly last week, his captors' demand for the release of 10 "freedom fighters" and his assassination two days after his "trial" by them as an Indian agent was first given by Pakistan Radio. It is not merely that the government of Pakistan has trained and armed the extremists but has obviously been closely associated with their day-to-day operations. Above all, there is, as it were, a keen competition between Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, her foe and Chief Minister of West Punjab, in egging on the extremists into adventurous acts across the line of actual control. Soon after she announced a donation of Rs [rupees] 10 crore for their benefit, he followed up with another one of Rs five crore. After all this, official Pakistani disavowal of a policy of confrontation with India makes no sense.

The trouble is that Pakistan has all along paid only lip-service to the Simla Agreement which enjoins both countries to seek a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue through a dialogue. Throughout the Zia years, Islamabad's Kashmir policy was said to be based on both the UN resolutions of 1948 and 1949 and the Simla Agreement. This was Pakistan's way of scuttling the agreement. At first, Ms. Bhutto appeared to recognise the patent contradiction in basing Pakistan's Kashmir policy both on the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. But soon she apparently found it expedient to revert to the late Gen. Zia's line. And since the Kashmiri militants have switched over to a campaign of killings in the valley, she has sought virtually to bury the Simla Agreement by the jingoistic way in which she has boosted their morale in the name of self-determination. The most charitable construction one can place upon her volte-face can be that she is trying to contain the militants who are committed to complete independence for Kashmir and who are at loggerheads with those who want integration with Pakistan. This is not an uncommon tactic in political warfare. But the danger in this case is that she may soon irretrievably be a prisoner of anti-Indian rhetoric whatever group of militants she chooses to promote. There can, in other words, be no alternative to the Simla Agreement being acted upon if Ms. Bhutto genuinely wants to avoid a confrontation with India.

Pakistan Accused of 'Causing Communal Tension'

BK0604130890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has asserted the government's commitment to crush terrorism and restore peace in Punjab. Addressing an all-party gathering in Batala today, he said the Punjab government has been asked to deal firmly with the terrorists.

The home minister charged Pakistan with trying to weaken India by resorting to subversive activities and causing communal tension. He said the recent bomb blast at Batala and the Abohar incident were aimed at generating communal tension. But, he said, both Hindus and Sikhs have maintained their traditional brotherhood despite sufferings in the inhuman blast. He appealed to the people to thwart such attempts, and reiterated the government's determination to work for restoring peace and normalcy in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The home minister, accompanied by the Marxist leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Mr. Yashwant Sinha of the Janata Dal, Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr. Kamal Chaudhary of the Congress-I, visited the injured in Tuesday's [3 March] blast at the hospital.

Kashmir Militants Extend Hostage Deadline

BK1004033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The whereabouts of the kidnapped Kashmir university vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq; his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani; and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] General Manager, Mr. H.L. Khera, are still not known. According to an official spokesman in Jammu, security forces are continuing their intensive efforts to secure their release. Security has been further tightened in the curfew-bound Srinagar and other cities of Kashmir valley.

Meanwhile, news agency reports say that the kidnappers have extended the deadline till today morning. Earlier, they set their deadline at 1500 yesterday. However, there is no official confirmation about the extended deadline.

As reported earlier, the kidnappers are demanding release of arrested subversives in exchange of the kidnapped persons.

Demand Release of Detainees

BK1004090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The whereabouts of the kidnapped Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq; his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani; and the general manager of the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory, Mr. H.L. Khera, are still not known.

According to agency reports, the kidnappers have now demanded that their three arrested colleagues be released by this evening in exchange of the three kidnapped persons. Security forces are continuing efforts to secure the safe release of the kidnapped persons. About 100 subversives, including three top terrorists, have been arrested during raids since Friday [6 April] when the kidnapping took place.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns.

Several members in the Lok Sabha today expressed concern over the kidnapping of the vice chancellor of the Kashmir University, his personal assistant, and the general manager of the HMT factory in Srinagar. Raising the issue during the zero hour, they said that there have been conflicting reports about the fate of the three persons, and demanded a statement from the government.

One Body Found

BK1004104890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 10 (AFP)—The body of one of three hostages held by Muslim separatists in Kashmir was found Tuesday [10 April], security sources said here. The corpse of H.L. Khera, general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools factory in Srinagar, was discovered in the city's Batmaloo area, the sources said. His identity card was reportedly found on the corpse.

Mr. Khera was one of three men abducted Friday from Srinagar by Muslim separatists campaigning for a free Kashmir. The fate of the other two men was not known.

Whereabouts of Others Unknown

BK1004114690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the body of the kidnapped HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera, was found near Batmaloo locality of Srinagar today. The body was bullet-ridden. The whereabouts of the kidnapped Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq, and his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani, are still not known. The security forces are searching for them. The kidnappers had earlier demanded that their three arrested colleagues be released by this evening in exchange of the three kidnapped persons.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns.

Bill Extending Punjab President's Rule Approved

BK1004090690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Punjab by another six months beyond the 10th of next month. The Rajya Sabha today passed the constitution 65th amendment bill [as heard] with 208 members voting in its favor and one against. The house earlier negated an amendment moved by Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia, Congress-I, seeking to refer the bill to a select committee of the house. The Lok Sabha passed the bill last week. The lone Akali Dal member in the house voted against the bill.

In his reply, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, expressed the government's determination to hold the assembly elections in Punjab within the next six

months. He appealed to all political parties to cooperate in this endeavor. He said the need of the hour is to create a sense of confidence among the people. An all-party rally will be held on the 13th of this month. He said the prime minister will attend the rally.

Strike Called in Protest

BK1004093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] call given for today by the Akali Dal-Mann and supported by the All India Sikh Students Federation has evoked mixed response. According to an official spokesman, most of the shops in Amritsar and Batala area of Gurdaspur District are closed, while at other places about 40 to 90 percent of shops are open. Railway traffic is not at all affected, while road traffic, except for a few places, is also normal. Government offices, banks, medical institutions, and educational institutions, except for Majitha area of Amritsar District, are functioning as normal. No untoward incidents have so far been reported from anywhere.

Meanwhile, about 100 preventive arrests have been made in the state. The state government has made adequate security arrangements in view of the bundh call. The call has been given by the president of the Akali Dal-Mann, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, in protest against the move to extend president's rule in Punjab.

Minister Details Steps To Check Gujarat Violence

BK0904131590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, declared in the Rajya Sabha today that the government will not spare elements trying to vitiate communal situation in the country. Making a statement on the incidents of communal violence in Gujarat, he said the state government has been urged to take immediate measures to restore normalcy. The center is providing all possible assistance in this regard.

Giving details about the measures taken by the state government, the home minister said 364 persons have been arrested and a massive combing operation launched to detect illegal weapons. Provisions of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act have been invoked in some cases. Deployment of police and paramilitary forces has been augmented. The center has also rushed additional forces to Gujarat. Army columns have staged flag march in Ahmedabad and Vadodara.

Officials Welcome Multiparty System in Nepal

BK0904132590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] India has hailed the restoration of multiparty democratic system in Nepal. Making a statement amidst thumping of desks in the Lok Sabha, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said the change has come about as a result of a peaceful and valiant mass movement. He said India shares the happiness of the Nepalese people on the occasion.

Earlier, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, complimented the people of Nepal for restoring democracy in the Himalayan kingdom. He was responding to a demand made by Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, that the house should congratulate the Nepalese people for the restoration of democracy in their country.

In the Rajya Sabha also, members from all sections today welcomed the restoration of the multiparty system in nepal. The matter was raised by a Congress-I member during special mention.

President Returns After Three-Country Visit

BK1004042690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi this morning after a state visit to Portugal, Britain, and Malta.

Talking to our correspondent, G. Subramaniam, at the airport, Mr. Venkataraman described the visit as successful. He said the visit has further strengthened the cordial bilateral relations with these countries. Mr. Venkataraman said measures to improve economic activities were also discussed. He said these countries have shown keen interest in expanding relations with India.

500 Fishermen 'Kidnapped' by LTTE Released

BK0904032190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] All the 500 Indian fishermen kidnapped by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] across the Palk Straits on Saturday night [7 April] were released yesterday evening. Official sources in Madras said 75 boats carrying the fishermen have returned to coastal villages in Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai District.

Iran

Shahbazi Interviewed on Visit to Pakistan

LD0904121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of Iran's Army, on his recent visit to Pakistan, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given; from the "Armed Forces Program"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces radio program. We are with Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, the esteemed chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, interviewing him regarding his recent visit to the friendly Muslim neighbor country,

Pakistan. General, recently, at the head of a high ranking military delegation, you visited Pakistan. Tell us about the purpose and the results of that visit.

[Shahbazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My visit, at the head of a high ranking military delegation was in response to the invitation of my Pakistani military counterpart, Admiral Sirohey, and the Pakistani commander of ground forces, General Aslam Beg, and with the approval of the esteemed commander in chief. This kind of visit usually takes place to expand mutual interests and cooperation, and they take place in an atmosphere of understanding which exists between the two countries.

[Correspondent] General, how do you assess the military ties between Iran and Pakistan at the moment, and in general, what military personalities did you meet during that visit?

[Shahbazi] The present level of military ties between the two countries can be improved. In this regard, we had lengthy talks with the military and political personalities of the brother country, Pakistan. During our talks with them, lengthy discussions were held on the dual aspect of the understandings. For example, so far we have regarded the problems of the brother country, Pakistan, as our problems and I asked that they too, as before and with more strength and force, recognize our problems as their own country's problems. Surely if the brother country is being threatened and has problems, then we too are threatened and have problems. Those problems can be solved in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and practical cooperation between the two countries. The official of the brother country Pakistan completely accepted my views and we agreed that attention should be paid, in practice, to our requests and the requests of Pakistan and, in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation, the mutual utilization of all resources—existing and potential—of Iran and Pakistan should be reconsidered and decisions should then be made of the method of cooperation. The Pakistani brothers claimed that there are more than 20 memorandums of understanding; some of them were not applied at all and some were partly applied and then ignored. I suggested that one of the reasons for that is that in general, we should not undermine the main path to agreements and that agreements should be made at the legal levels of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. When this is done, then both governments support the implementation of the agreements. They accepted and agreed that issues would improve in that way and therefore I referred to the issues they raised in the same way. For example, I carried His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message regarding problems of drug smugglers and border counterrevolutionaries. I relayed the message on these issues to the Pakistani brothers and they agreed to make the appropriate decisions in terms of bilateral cooperation so as to ensure security on the borders and prevent counterrevolutionaries on the border from attacking one country and taking refuge in another. Fortunately, these issues were received with positive understanding by those brothers. On other topics, which for some reasons are better left unmentioned, some valuable understandings were reached, about which I will inform the esteemed president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Of course, I also informed His Excellency Dr. Velayati in person about some issues in connection with the Foreign Ministry and I will send those gentlemen the written reports, too.

[Correspondent] General, what do you have to say about the transfer of the experience gained from eight years of holy defense, by our people and military brothers, to the people and Armed Forces of Pakistan? Were they willing to receive this experience?

[Shahbazi] Yes, extremely. They said so before I could mention it. However I was not prepared to discuss any specific weapon with them. I stressed a fundamental understanding of and a logical approach to all their needs. That is, I intend to look into practical solutions to all the needs previously mentioned, or to be mentioned later. On the whole, considering the problems facing the Muslim Pakistani Government, both the honorable chief of the Joint Staff and the commander of the Ground Forces of Pakistan asked me: How can we utilize the experience you gained during your eight year war? I told them that this could be achieved by exchanging trainers, trainees, and documents, perhaps inspecting the sites of some of the operations, using the facilities of the staff command academies in Iran and Pakistan, and referring to some of the documents with the approval of the authorities. They were extremely enthusiastic about this, and I promised them full cooperation and understanding. God willing, this will be accomplished when certain future plans are made.

[Correspondent] If you have anything to say about training, discipline, and generally, the combat and defensive readiness of our combatant brothers on the borders of our Islamic homeland during off-duty periods, please tell our dear listeners.

[Shahbazi] Fortunately, combat readiness is extremely good, compared to the past. The esteemed leader gave strict orders, numerous meetings were held, proper plans were drawn up, the prepared plans were frequently supervised and inspected. The three forces, the Joint Staff, and the Defense Ministry, gave the necessary cooperation. The problems were brought to the attention of the authorities. His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who pays special attention to the Armed Forces, promised full government support for the Armed Forces. This fortunately raised morale in the Armed Forces. The Majles, too, made a favorable promise and Mr. Karrubi helped a great deal in this matter. The Armed Forces budget allocation was increased beyond imagination and was approved by the Majles. The Armed Forces Act was ratified. A great deal was done.

On the whole, thanks to training, drills, maneuvers, and other programs, which were planned and have been implemented, our combat strength is at an acceptable

level now, and can also be improved. With the completion of the programs in progress, God willing, we will increase our combat strength to an extremely favorable level. The strict orders given by the esteemed leader about increasing our combat strength were conveyed to the Armed Forces. Those orders were extremely effective in increasing our combat strength. The joint headquarters for the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, the Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters, was set up again at the General Command Headquarters. The esteemed leader went to the headquarters and chaired the meeting. The orders given by his excellency [Khamene'i] together with the conclusions reached at the meeting were conveyed to the Armed Forces. The orders were very constructive. At present the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps are following upon those orders. I foresee a very hopeful future for the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you for taking part in this interview and answering our questions. We now say good bye to our dear listeners.

Pakistan Radio, TV Chief Asked To Visit Iran

LD0904122290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Our country's ambassador to Pakistan met yesterday with the director general of Pakistan's radio and television organization, and underlined the need for cooperation between the two countries' radio and television bodies.

According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, the director general of Pakistani radio and television announced his willingness to visit Iran to meet with the head of the Voice and Vision Organization, and expressed the hope that the ties between the two countries' radio and television will be expanded in the fields of technology, production of joint programs, and the training of specialists.

Our country's ambassador, on behalf of the head of the Voice and Vision, invited the director general of Pakistani radio and television to visit Iran.

Paper on U.S.-Soviet 'Cooperation' in Region

LD0904164290 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran April 9, IRNA—A political commentator of the Persian daily ETTELA'AT said in a commentary Monday that as a result of developments in the West the United States and the Soviet Union are now collaborating at the international level rather than antagonizing each other.

It said: "The end of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union and the advent of a complete detente and cooperation between the superpowers is gradually changing the structure of international relations. The fact that Moscow and Washington are cooperating in many areas reminds us of the need to arrive at fundamentally new definitions in the international relations.

"The core of international system in the second half of the 60's and throughout the 70's was characterized by encounters between the western powers and the southern nations. The insubordination of the so-called 'developing' southern nations towards the gluttonous and wealthy northern nations posed fresh threats against the international capitalism, its major elements being:

-Deepening of economic relations between military and economic allies. (The staggeringly fast tempo of developments of Germany and Japan).

-The steadily growing power and military threats of the Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Pact.

-The qualitative and quantitative improvement in the economies of the third world nations which had regional or local structure.

"The encounter of the industrialized West and specifically the United States with the threats which aimed at the international system became more urgent during the 1980's. The remedy that was decided on was one that eventually led the superpowers towards some sort of integration and collaboration.

"Until mid 80's the international relations were based on the essential encounter between the South-North countries and later on it developed into the steadily increasing collaboration between the East and West.

"For the time being and at least until the end of 1990 Europe will be the center of the attention of the United States and the Soviet Union making the third world nations transform into an area for the close cooperation between the two powers. The region is now experiencing an unprecedented phenomena: that of the emigration of Soviet Jews and East European Jews to the occupied Palestine.

"As the Arab world gradually loses its economic potential the Arab governments will have lesser international influence, and the economies of Arab nations are trying to cope with fundamental internal crises. The acceptance of the U.S. request by the Soviet government for facilitating the emigration of the Soviet Jews to Palestine is evidence of the establishment of a total cooperation between Moscow and Washington in relation with the developments in the region...in other words a collaboration between the West and East throughout the world and the Middle East has supplanted the previous rivalry between the two powers."

ABRAR Editorial Rejects Ties With U.S.

LD0804105490 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The Persian Daily ABRAR in its editorial Sunday ruled out the possibility that Iran will re-establish ties with the U.S. Administration as long it holds on to its hostile and domination-seeking attitude.

Commenting on the 10th anniversary of Iran's severance of ties with the U.S., April 8, it said, "Events and developments of the past 10 years show that Washington has not dropped its aggressive policies towards the Islamic revolution and the Republic and continues its domination-seeking policies towards the nation."

"In the past 10 years, political, economic and propagandistic schemes of the White House against Iran has not ceased for a single minute and Washington has not spared a single opportunity to challenge the Islamic revolution," it added.

It is doubtful whether re-establishment of ties under such conditions can be "sound, based on mutual respect and non-interference in our internal affairs," it said.

It however, stressed, "The revolutionary government and nation of Iran has never been against establishment of ties on an equal basis with all countries excluding the illegitimate Zionist regime and the apartheid South Africa Government."

"Expansion of ties with the Soviet Union and development of friendly relations with European, Asian, African and Latin American countries are all indicative of the Islamic Republic's confidence in having bonds with the world countries on an equal basis and good intentions," the editorial noted.

"Principle of 'neither-East-nor-West' in Iran's foreign policy does not allow the Islamic republic to accept relations based on an unjust conditions. The Islamic Republic considers April 8 as an auspicious day, the day it ended disgraceful relations with a domination-seeking administration," it concluded.

UN Representative Meets Envoy Eliasson

LD0704231990 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 7, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi in a meeting with U.N. secretary general's special envoy Jan Eliasson here Friday delivered Iran's viewpoints on the U.N. chief's proposed agenda for resumption of Iran-Iraq peace talks.

One of the main responsibilities of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to prevent raising of issues outside the framework of the resolution, said Kharrazi to IRNA correspondent after the meeting.

"The peace talks should not become a forum for rewriting and interpreting the resolution," he stressed. Kharrazi further added that the resolution is binding and must be implemented as it is spelled out and on the basis of priorities.

Withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognised borders is of top priority in the resolution, materialisation of which is the first step towards peace, he told IRNA.

Turning to Perez de Cuellar's proposed agenda for resumption of peace talks, he said that if the secretary general and his assistants are really for progress of the peace talks, they must present a program and a timetable for implementation of the resolution.

Kharrazi and other Iranian diplomats to the U.N. are to continue their consultations with U.N. officials for finalization of Perez de Cuellar's proposed agenda an the next few days.

Afghan Immigrants, Mojaheds Meet in Mashhad

LD0704051690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report a gathering of Afghan immigrants and Mojaheds, resident in Mashhad, was held in Goharshad congregational mosque this evening. In that gathering Mr. Akhlaqi, the speaker of Afghan Mojaheds' nine-party coalition, talked about the necessity of Afghan Mojaheds' unity for the struggle and achievement of final victory. Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeqi, one of the officials in charge of Afghanistan's Vahdat [Unity] Party, while placing emphasis on the necessity for the safeguard of unity among Afghan Mojaheds, thanked Islamic Republic of Iran for material and moral assistance and the acceptance of Afghan immigrants and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports our unity and victory. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Behsudi, another of the officials of the Islamic Vahdat Party, made remarks on the established unity among Afghan Mojaheds and added: The base of our people's uprisings, whether Sunni or Shi'a, was only their belief. They have made the uprisings to defend the Koran and to establish an Islamic government.

Paper Alleges Torture of Political Prisoners

NC0704154090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 March 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Torture, No Way To Ensure Security, Stability"]

[Text] Political prisoners in Bahrain, 300 of them, have threatened they will launch an unlimited hunger strike if the Bahraini government does not act swiftly to treat a religious political opposition leader Sayyid Ja'far Alawi. Reports have it that due to constant torture since his detention the Muslim activist's life is in jeopardy.

In a letter to the Bahrain Home Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah the prisoners have said the government's failure in treating Alavi will entail a general strike in all prisons in the country.

With Shiites constituting over 80 percent of the populace, Bahrain, compared with other shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf has the highest number of political prisoners standing next only to Saudi Arabia. The prisoners are believed to be subject to very harsh systematic torture. Giving long sentences to political prisoners for even minor offences are common place in the country.

It is not of course in Bahrain alone that Muslim activists are made targets of state terrorism and official acts of torture and violence.

Recent events in Yugoslavian province of Kosovo, India's Jammu and Kashmir, and Soviet Azerbaijan all clearly point to a very regrettable political reality. Muslims everywhere are the prime target of state acts of violence amidst a diabolic policy of silence or downplaying of events by the Western media.

The imperialist powers which control most communications media around the globe, in order to secure their own vested interests favor suppression of muslims everywhere, have very shrewdly tried to downplay the reaction of the world community towards anti-Muslim moves to the lowest possible levels.

Coming as it does at a time of general repression of muslim activists in many countries today the violent handling of the Bahraini government of its opposition forces underscore one thing: the regime in the island nation has regrettably chosen to see its interests in suppressing Muslim Forces in an imperialistically orchestrated move.

There are other ways to tackle political cleavages. The incubus of an iron-hand role will finally have to go one day. With the outright torture of muslim opposition to the point of endangering the activist's life, the Bahraini government will only witness an escalation of the crisis.

Rather than tying its political fate and interests to those of foreign powers, the regime of Bahrain should cater to the political demands of its own people. Security and stability will have to come from within and not be forged through subservience to and political reliance on foreign powers.

The Bahraini government should turn to its own people, address their political grievances and diligently move to improve their socio-political situation before it is too late. It should stop torturing its own citizens asking for political freedoms and reforms. That is the only way to security and stability.

Mines Minister Meets Andreotti in Rome

NC0704061690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Mahlujchi, our minister of mines and metals, met with Italian Prime Minister Andreotti yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, which was also attended by the Italian ambassador in Tehran and the Islamic Republic's envoy in Rome, Mr. Mahlujchi conveyed a friendly message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Mr. Andreotti and thanked him for his special role in the expansion of the two countries' relations after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

During this meeting, our minister of mines and metals expressed gratitude for Italy's efforts to bring about implementing Resolution 598. He described the present neither war nor peace situation as threatening for the region and stated: By accepting all the proposals put forward by the secretary general, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved its readiness for the full implementation of Resolution 598. He also described the reports on chemical weapons in the Persian Gulf region as disturbing and dangerous.

Andreotti conveyed his greetings and a message of friendship to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and expressed satisfaction at the agreements reached by the second joint Iranian-Italian commission. He added: During the period that Italy will be presiding over the EEC, it will strive to expand the EEC's relations with Iran and will seize every possible opportunity. Mr. Andreotti also expressed his concern over the reports published on chemical weapons in the region.

It should be pointed out that Saddam, the head of the Iraqi regime, recently confirmed officially that chemical weapons are being produced in Iraq. Also, the revelation about the dispatch of nuclear trigger devices to Iraq has added to the existing concern in the region.

During the visit to Italy by the Islamic Republic's delegation, which included officials from several ministries—namely, the Petroleum Ministry, the Ministry of Heavy Industries, and the Ministry of Power—agreements on several large industrial projects were signed between the two countries totaling $13 billion. These projects include the construction of a dam in the Karun River, the manufacture of Fiat cars in Iran, and the installation of steel and petrochemical units.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome.

Returns to Tehran 6 Apr

NC0704072490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Mahlujchi, our minister of mines and metals, who had gone to Italy at the head of an economic delegation, returned to Tehran last night after signing a memorandum of understanding. Before his departure

from Rome, the minister of mines and metals gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent and spoke about the results of the visit. We invite you to listen to our colleague's report.

[Begin recording] Mr. Mahlujchi, our minister of mines and metals, who was in Rome to participate in the second session of the joint Iranian-Italian commission, gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent last night before his departure from Rome, and described the visit by the Islamic Republic's economic delegation to Italy as extremely fruitful and encouraging.

Referring to the memorandum of understanding signed at the end of the session of the two countries' joint commission, he said: On the basis of this memorandum of understanding, several production and industrial projects will be set up in Iran, with Italy's cooperation. The most important of these will be the construction of a dam on the Karun River which will generate about 3,000 mw of electricity, a plant to manufacture Fiat cars with a capacity of 150,000 cars which will run on gas, and the construction of several steel and petrochemical units.

Commenting on the political results of the Iranian delegation's visit to Italy, the director general of the department for West European affairs of our Foreign Ministry, who accompanied the delegation, stated: The most important political result of this visit was the breaking of the EEC decision on suspending meetings between EEC officials and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at ministerial level. He added: This was the first official visit by a ministerial level Iranian delegation to a European country since this decision was made. During this visit the Iranian delegation met and talked with the Italian prime minister and three Italian ministers, and good political results were achieved.

It should be noted that because of the high value of the agreements signed during this visit—totaling about $13 billion—informed sources have described the joint Iranian-Italian commission as one of the most successful economic commissions since the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome. [end recording]

Natural Gas Protocol Agreement With USSR

LD0804111890 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Union Sunday signed a protocol for the export of Iranian natural gas to the U.S.S.R. for a period of 15 years.

According to the protocol Iran will export 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas to the Soviet Union which could be increased to 10 billion cubic meters.

The Soviet Union will receive the natural gas at the border point of Astara.

Speaking to reporters, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadah said that the price of the export gas will be calculated on monthly basis and according to the going rates in international markets.

According to Aqazadeh the annual revenue of export of three billion cubic meters of natural gas to the Soviet Union will amount to about $300 million.

The oil minister noted that the two countries have also reached agreement for transfer of Iranian natural gas to Eastern and Western Europe through the Soviet Union.

However, Aqazadeh said, this is not the only route for transfer of the Iranian gas, adding that talks were underway for building a pipeline to Europe through Turkey.

Iran's second pipeline has been built from giant natural gas resources in southern Iran to the central city of Isfahan and if transfer of Iranian gas through Turkey is approved, the pipeline would be extended to Tehran and from there to western borders.

The second pipeline can transfer 80 million cubic meters of gas per day, Aqazadeh said and noted that 150 million cubic feet of gas per day can be exploited from the huge 48-trillion cubic feet gas resource in the south.

He said that during the five-year development plan the present number of cities which are supplied with city gas will increase from 120 to 200.

A Soviet delegation, comprising the chairman and managers of the 'Sayuzgazeksport' [Gas Export Foreign Trade Association] company and officials of the Soviet gas industry ministry arrived here Thursday night to finalize a protocol for Iran's gas exports to the Soviet Union.

Gas Exports to USSR Via Astara Begin

LD0904121690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] Renewed Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union began via Astara this morning after a 10-year break. A Central New Unit correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] At noon today, the export of natural gas from Iran to the Soviet Union began at a level of eight million cubic meters per day. In the ceremonies held on the occasion at the gas measurement base at the border town of Astara in the presence of Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, our country's minister of finance and economic affairs; the Soviet ambassador and commercial attache in Tehran; the director of the Soviet Soyuzgazeksport [Gas Export Foreign Trade Association] company; and a number of high-ranking economic, technical, and oil and gas officials from the two countries, the national pipeline valve was opened and the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union resumed.

The report states that on the basis of agreements reached between high-ranking economic and oil officials of the two countries, three billion cubic meters of natural gas per year will be exported to the Soviet Union via the first network of our Islamic homeland's national pipeline. The national pipeline is 1,160 km long and carries natural gas from the refineries of Kangan, in Bushehr Province, and Bid Boland, in Khuzestan Province, to the Astara pipeline.

Concurrent with the commencement of natural gas exports to the Soviet Union, Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of finance and economic affairs and the Iranian chairman of the Iranian-Soviet joint economic cooperation commission, announced in an interview with our reporter that the export of gas to the Soviet Union is the main axis of our bilateral economic cooperation.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Dr. Nurbakhsh referred to the two countries' economic and technical agreements and cooperation, adding: On the basis of agreements, 19 important industrial and technical projects in Iran will be undertaken by the Soviet Union, funded from natural gas sales. The projects include the construction of the Ramin power station in Ahvaz and the Martyr Montazeri power station in Esfahan, increasing the production level of the Esfahan steel mill to four million tonnes per year, the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs and Mashhad-(?Bafq) railways, and the (Asfareyen) industrial complex. The $6-billion cost of these projects will be provided from the natural gas export project to the Soviet Union.

Central News Unit, Rasht.

[Announcer] During the ceremony, the director of Iran's national gas company also announced that the export of gas to the Soviet Union undoubtedly will have an important effect on the two countries' economic and technical ties, and with the implementation of the gas sales over the next 15 years, large plans and projects will be undertaken in Iran with the two countries' close cooperation. Most of the projects will go into implementation during the first five-year economic development plan, and the second network of the national pipeline to Astara will come about through cooperation between the two countries. Suitable facilities will thereby be provided for increasing the volume of gas exports to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Mikhanov, the director of the Soviet gas company, announced: In exchange for the gas exports, we will export technical instruments and equipment to Iran and will undertake large-scale projects in Iran. Undoubtedly, bilateral economic and technical ties will have a significant effect on the relations between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Commentary on Renewed Gas Exports

NC0904085890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0447 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Central News Unit's commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the signing of an agreement, Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union are to resume after a 10-year interval during a ceremony today. Under the terms of the agreement, 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas are to be exported annually via the first pipeline built in the country.

The resumption of Iranian gas exports to the Soviet Union, general agreement on which was reached during Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow last June, is considered one of the significant axes within the framework of improving relations between the two neighboring countries.

The new phase in relations between the two countries began with plans to increase the general volume of Iranian-Soviet economic projects during the next few years to $6 billion. Iran's gas exports will be in exchange for equipment, machinery, and services needed to implement at least 19 large economic and industrial projects.

Iran's gas exports to the Soviet Union started in 1349 [year beginning 21 March 1970]. The exports were transported by the first 1,106-km pipeline known as Irgat-1 which extended from the Bid Boland refinery to Astara. The final output of this pipeline has been set at 16.5 billion cubic meters per year. During the period between 1349 and 1358 [1970-1979], a total of 70 billion cubic meters of gas was exported to the Soviet Union at an extremely low price. However, the country's gas exports were stopped completely when the Soviet-Iranian talks on gas export prices collapsed after Esfand 1358 [February 1979]. Under the new agreement on gas exports to the Soviet Union, prices are calculated on a par with international prices.

In addition to demonstrating the fulfillment of part of the agreements reached between the two neighboring countries, the news of the resumption of gas exports also speaks of the revival of the country's gas export industries and of Iran's presence in the international gas market. Eighty percent of the world's known gas resources are in 10 countries and Iran ranks second among these countries. Other figures show that the 45 percent of the Middle East gas resources belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Such a position demands the necessary investments to increase domestic gas consumption and, as the next stage, to prepare the ground for gas exports. [passage omitted]

Despite its immense gas resources, Iran plays an inactive role among the major gas exporters in the world. For example, Algeria—which has one-fourth of Iran's gas resources—has been able to increase its gas exports from about 6 billion cubic meters in 1980 to 38 billion cubic meters in 1987. With this approximately six-fold increase during these years, it has continuously exported more than 50 percent of its total gas production.

At any rate, the Algerian experience shows that a country like Iran can also easily become one of the important gas

exporting countries in the world. Increasing Iranian gas exports depends on elevating the country's export capability. In relation with this the first step will have to be the expansion of a pipeline following a market feasibility study and the second step will have to be the expansion of liquid gas production centers. Iranian gas exports to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Japan, and South Korea are currently under study.

Nepal & Bhutan

Foreign Minister Comments on Ties With India

BK0904145690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9 (AFP)—Nepal would like to start negotiations with India on a trade and transit treaty on a "completely new clean slate," Foreign Minister Pashupati Rana said Monday [9 April]. Speaking at a press conference called by newly appointed Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, the foreign minister said he hoped talks could be held on "a friendly basis" with New Delhi in which "the sovereign and national interests of Nepal could be completely safeguarded."

His comments followed reports here that despite apparently rapid progress with India's new government to end a crippling year-long Indian blockade of most of landlocked Nepal's frontier trade points, talks last week had stalled. Government sources had said at the time that New Delhi's latest draft proposal had in their eyes made Kathmandu more dependent than ever on New Delhi. The blockade resulted in extreme hardship for Nepalese who saw petrol rationed, power cuts, and even basic shortages of essential commodities including baby food and life-saving medicines.

Mr. Rana said he had been completely preoccupied with internal events since taking office and had not had time to study the draft of the new treaty proposal. However most observers saw his comments as a definitive rejection of New Delhi's latest draft treaty.

Prime Minister Pleads for Unity, Thanks Press

BK0904145990 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand today made a fervent plea to give up charges, countercharges, and bitter animosity in the largest interest of nationalism and security, and promote cooperation, cordiality, and understanding. He said: Let us forget we were what and where, and get united. The prime minister was addressing national and foreign press in Kathmandu at Singha Darbar for the first time.

The prime minister thanked the fourth estate for their contributions during the difficult period, while at the same time, keeping utmost their devotion to monarchy, the nation, and the people, as well as the professional dignity and duty. The prime minister noted that unpleasant incidents took place in the country and people at different levels had to undergo problems and many even lost their lives, and said this was indeed unfortunate that all of us had to undergo such a regrettable situation at a time when the country had not yet recovered from the economic hardships inflicted over the past one year.

Processions Celebrate Lifting of Party Ban

BK0904150590 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In an ecstasy on the lifting of the ban on all political parties, a procession consisting of hundreds of thousands of people coming from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur went around Kathmandu City followed by musical bands this morning. Politicians of the Nepali Congress, United Left Front, and others also took part in the procession. The procession later converged into a mass meeting at the open air theater in (Kundikheri). Senior politicians Ganesh Man Singh, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Sahana Pradhan, Girija Prasad Koirala, Man Mohan Adhikari, including others, addressed the mass meeting.

Likewise, massive processions, accompanied by musical bands and raising slogans, also went around towns in different parts of the kingdom.

Joyous processions were taken out in Kathmandu Valley as soon as the news about the lifting of the ban on political parties was announced over Nepal Television and Radio Nepal last night. Several houses were (?illumined) as soon as the announcement was made shortly before midnight yesterday.

The lifting of the ban on political parties has been welcomed as a very timely step. Rallies were taken out at various places in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, (Shaktipur), and other places in Kathmandu Valley, celebrating the legalization of political parties. Activists of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front, politicians, and common people took part in the processions in large numbers.

New Prime Minister on Elections, Other Issues

BK1004035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The new Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand, said at his first news conference in Kathmandu yesterday that general elections will be held in the country after the appointment of a new election commission and a suitable amendment to the constitution. The finance minister, Mr. Pashupatinath Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana, who was also present at the press conference, said that necessary steps will be taken to sign a new treaty with India based on friendship.

When asked about former the prime minister, Mr. Marich Man Singh Shrestha's excesses, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand said that this would be reviewed and if

he is found guilty, he will be dealt with accordingly. Mr. Chand said that Mr. Shrestha has not been jailed.

Meanwhile, more reactions have come in, welcoming the announcement of restoration of multiparty democracy in Nepal. The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in a statement expressed the hope that these encouraging developments will set the stage for decisive progress in the relations between India and Nepal. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said in Washington that King Birendra's decision is an important move toward fostering democratic government and protection of human rights.

As reported earlier, members in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha yesterday greeted with thumping of desks the government statement on the developments in Nepal.

New Political Parties Formally Open Offices

BK1004111590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 10 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 10 (AFP)—Nepal's newly legalized political parties got down to work Tuesday [10 April], formally opening offices as King Birendra was reported consulting experts on the work of changing the country's Constitution. In the narrow winding streets of Kathmandu—and shown in newspaper photographs for the first time in 30 years—were the hammer-and-sickle flags of the leftist parties and the red-and-white stars and stripes of the centrist Nepali Congress (NC), flying side by side from statues, rooftops and window sills. Tourist flights ran normally, and tour operators anxiously awaited groups whose trips had been postponed due to the bloody seven-week-long street battle for political freedom which ended late Sunday [8 April]. Newly released political prisoners, including human rights activists, intellectuals and those who had gone underground, called on relatives and friends and went into huddles over the shape of Nepal's political future.

"We are going to formally open our (downtown) office today with the flag and the party name," NC leader Krishna Prasad Bhattaray said early Tuesday. Mr. Bhattaray said that for the first time in three decades, party workers would fan out over the mountains and valleys of the Himlayan Kingdom—without fear of arrest—"to seek the people's cooperation in the great task of nation building."

Mr. Bhattaray, who held critical talks with King Birendra on Sunday, just before the 46-year-old monarch announced his acceptance of a multiparty system, said his party was selecting candidates to undertake three tasks in which the king had sought the party's help. He said they were the formation of an interim coalition government, assistance in putting together a constitutional reform committee, and helping investigate alleged atrocities during the political unrest under the previous government, headed by former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha. Mr. Bhattray said he saw his party playing a key role as a centrist force between the conservative Panchayat and Nepal's powerful leftists, hinting that he envisaged a constitution that would provide for a three-party system under the monarchy in Nepal's first democratic experiment since political parties were banned some 30 years ago. He clearly spelled out that the alliance between the NC and the United Leftist Front (ULF), a coalition of seven communist parties, during the democracy movement that began February 18 had been tactical.

"The most important gain is freedom for the 18.8 million people of Nepal," he said. "After 30 years, we finally have the barrel of the gun lifted from our shoulders," he said.

Palace sources said the Harvard-educated king was closeted with constitutional experts discussing the modalities of changes in the Constitution, which currently enshrines the partyless panchayat system. He was also meeting with leaders of the Panchayat councils, whose strength has grown to some 500,000 over the past 30 years, on how their interests under a multiparty system could be safeguarded.

The ULF parties said they were also working on selecting candidates for an interim coalition government, the constitutional reform commission and the panel investigating alleged government excesses during the democracy campaign.

But the United National Peoples Movement (UNPM), a group of five extreme-left splinter groups, warned that they considered the reforms "meaningless" and the result of "a conspiracy" between the king and the leaders of the ULF and the Nepali Congress. In a statement issued late Monday [9 April], the UNPM accused the other parties of selling out, and called on "democratic-minded people to continue the struggle for achieving real democracy."

Sources said Mr. Shrestha, whose blood was called for by demonstrators in the streets here Monday, was being held under Royal Army guard in a special detention camp "for his own safety." Mr. Shrestha's government had jailed hundreds of banned political party members in the camp in Kathmandu, and he had brushed them off before the democracy campaign got underway as "only a handful of people." Students marching through the capital's streets, which erupted in joy Monday after the king's announcement to lift the ban on political parties, had chanted "Hang Marich Man" and "Death to Marich Man."

Factors Influencing King's Decision Viewed

BK0904103890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9 (AFP)—King Birendra made his fateful decision to lift a 30-year ban on political

parties because of pressure from all sides, including his own inner circle, and to ensure the future of Nepal's centuries old monarchy, analysts here said Monday [9 April]. His Sunday decree came on the heels of pressure from aid donors, trusted royalists, mounting street demonstrations and serious threats from across the Indian border, political observers said.

The 47-year-old Harvard-educated king who ascended to the throne in 1972 and whose 18-year-old son, Crown Prince Dipendra, is being groomed to succeed him, had been under intense pressure from widespread protests since the democracy movement erupted February 18. The monarch's first reaction was to crack down. Tens of thousands were imprisoned, then as the demonstrations showed no sign of letting up, armed police and troops were called out. Scores died and hundreds were wounded in the usually tranquil Himalayan Kingdom, mecca of mountaineers and trekkers from the world over.

But it was not only the protests and the mounting death toll, the analysts said Monday as an estimated 250,000 jubilant residents of Kathmandu, men, women and children, took to the streets shouting "democracy" in celebration.

The king's decision was, observers said, also taken to thwart possible moves by extreme leftist anti-monarchical Nepalese based in India who had threatened to wage acts of terrorism. To avoid this, these groups said the king had to stop the "genocide," dissolve what was described as the "autocratic" panchayat system and declare a mutliparty system of government and restore human rights.

Leaflets containing such threats were distributed along Nepal's lowland border with the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, reminding Nepalese of an explosion here in the summer of 1985 which left eight dead and 28 injured. The man who headed the group that pulled off that explosion, Ram Raja Prasad Singh, has been living since then in exile in India.

Last week the same group was reported to have thrown explosives at some government offices and attempted to blow up local police stations in Janakpur, 260 kilometers (160 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.The acts followed King Birendra's proclamation last Friday [6 April] dismissing the government of Marich Man Singh Shrestha and the constitution of an interim administration headed by Lokendra Bahadur Chand. The leaflets said the king's political concessions were not enough.

For the elderly leaders of many of Nepal's banned political parties, democracy was a freedom that had been denied the tiny Kingdom when their giant neighbour, India, gained independence in 1947, with a full party system. For some of the party leaders who had been battling for party freedom since then, it was their last chance. And for the young in the streets, it meant at long last catching up with the world, and getting rid of an entrenched system under which they saw Panchayat appointees grow fat.

However equally if not more importantly for the king, was the fact that last week trusted royalists in the panchayat system itself, appealed to the king and urged him for the "dignity of king and country" to grant democracy. Some insiders told him their loyalty to the crown was unswerving, but that "he should act boldly and rise above partisan politics for the peace and security of the crown, the country and the people," Panchayat sources said. Even at the height of the demonstrations, there had been no calls for the abolition of the monarchy.

Another but no less persuasive factor was pressure from Nepal's "friendly" donors, the sources said, pointing out that West Germany, Japan and the United States had all called on the king to stop the bloodshed in the streets and allow the voice of the people to prevail. Nepal is 60 per cent dependent for its development budget on grants and loans from Western donors, and pressure from Germany was particularly strong, as was U.S. President George Bush's reaction to the king after what is known here as the "Friday massacre."

Though traditionally tied by geography to both India and China, the two Asian giants that sandwich it, Nepal has tried successfully over the years to maintain a degree of economic independence, and as some Nepalese phrase it "avoid the fate of Bhutan" in keeping a large measure of independence from India. Bhutan, a neighbouring Himalayan Kingdom even smaller than Nepal with its 18 million people, is bound by treaty to follow Indian foreign and defence policies.

Adding to the unease in the royal household and among senior government officials here in recent weeks has been New Delhi's efforts to resolve a year-long, crippling trade and transit dispute by proposing conditions unacceptable to Nepal.

Pakistan

Akhund Says Government Assessing Kashmir Issue

BK0504163190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, has said Pakistan will continue to provide moral and political support to Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. He was speaking on national security and Pakistan's foreign policy at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs in Karachi this evening. Outlining Pakistan's policy on Kashmir, Mr. Iqbal Akhund said Pakistan will continue to seek a peaceful settlement of the problem. He said Simla agreement does not bar Pakistan from raising the Kashmir issue at international forums and Pakistan is now assessing ways to tackle the issue to achieve positive results.

Bhutto Convenes Meeting on Afghanistan Issue

BK0704144190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto convened a conference of the departments dealing with Afghan affairs in President's House in Islamabad today to apprise President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of the current situation in Afghanistan. At the meeting, reports were submitted on the current situation in Afghanistan and on the progress toward solving the Afghanistan issue. Plans to hold elections in Afghanistan were also considered.

Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, minister of state for defense, Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg, and the defense secretary were present at the meeting.

Ishaq Khan Briefed on Kashmir Situation

BK0804153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and discussed with him the current situation in occupied Kashmir. Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan told the president about the repression and excesses perpetrated by Indian forces on the Kashmiris living across the line of control. He also pointed out the indiscriminate killing of Muslim youths, the large-scale harassment of women, and the desecration of mosques by Indian forces.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was told that Indian forces have forcibly stopped the supply of medicine and are obstructing the distribution of food supplies which has created a famine-like situation in the entire valley. The Jammu and Kashmir president said that the work of voluntary agencies like the Red Crescent is also being obstructed by Indian forces and that is why the affected persons are not getting effective assistance.

Defense Committee Reviews Regional Situation

BK0904142490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The Defense Committee of the Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reviewed the geopolitical situation of the region, including Kashmir and Afghanistan. The committee also reviewed the internal and external security situation of the country and made several decisions on important issues. During the discussion on Kashmir situation, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir president, the prime minister, and the chief secretary were present. They were specially invited to the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Senior Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Communications Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim, the joint chiefs of staff committee chairman, the three services chiefs, the prime minister's adviser on finance, V.A. Jafarey; the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs, Iqbal Akhund; and the minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sawar Cheema.

Minister Says No Compromise on National Interests

BK0904155990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, the minister of state for defense, has said that the disturbances in occupied Kashmir are a direct result of the Indian Government's continued refusal to concede the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people through a plebiscite under UN supervision. Addressing students and officers at the Rawalpindi National Defense College today, he said that Indian designs to maintain its illegal occupation of part of Kashmir are tantamount to a direct confrontation with Pakistan's military and economic interests. He said that since Pakistan cannot compromise vital national interests in the pursuit of its desire for peace, the problem of its security will remain as long as India continues its efforts to fulfill its dream of establishing its hegemony in the region and to maintain its illegal occupation of Kashmir.

The minister of defense described the Afghan situation as another challenge for Pakistan's security. He said the Afghan issue needs to be resolved immediately, but basic principles cannot be compromised in this regard.

'Hundreds' Join Opposition Leader's Hunger Strike

BK1004104590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 10 Apr 90

[By Shamimur Rahman]

[Text] Karachi, April 10 (AFP)—An "explosive situation" brewed here as hundreds of people joined a hunger strike by an opposition leader and tensions simmered from an attack on a youth leader of the ruling party. Armed troops were patrolling in large numbers in the city's trouble spots in the central district Tuesday [10 April], witnesses said.

Altaf Hussain, head of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and a leading rival to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, announced Sunday [8 April] his vow to fast until death. Within 24 hours, thousands of his emotionally charged supporters converged on his residence, and hundreds of them joined in the hunger strike, witnesses said.

His supporters were camping out in tents, and a large number of women were seen reciting Koranic verses to pray for his health. The women also wanted to join the hunger strike but were prevented, MQM sources said.

A kidney patient who refuses to drink even a drop of water, Mr. Hussain is showing signs of dehydration and weight loss, doctors said.

Tension was already simmering from a violent attack on leaders of the People's Students Federation [PSF], youth wing of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP). One, Najib Ahmed, has been in a coma since a gunbattle here Friday, and three others were injured.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN called Mr. Ahmed's condition "extremely critical" at Aga Khan hospital on Tuesday. He was on artificial respiration after a bullet was removed from his skull, the report said.

"Law enforcing agencies have taken extraordinary precautionary measures in central districts to prevent incidents," the report said as hundreds of angry PSF workers and leaders thronged the hospital earlier in the day.

"An explosive situation is brewing in Karachi," the English-language daily THE MUSLIM reported, referring to the hunger strike and the Friday attack.

Mr. Hussain, 36, is considered the spiritual head of his movement. He wants government protections for the rights of the Urdu-speaking Muhajirs who migrated from India after the partition of the subcontinent at indepence from Britain in 1947. He has been demanding the release of some senior MQM leaders as well as the arrests of those responsible for the killing of party workers in recent clashes with PPP supporters.

The government of Sind Province, of which Karachi is the capital, has refused to release MQM activists, including local Councillor Khalid Ibn Walid arrested after Friday's shooting incident.

The Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, considered the pivotal leader of the main opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), flew here late Monday to persuade Mr. Hussain to call off his hunger strike, sources said. Mr. Sharif, referring to the slogan-chanting crowd outside Mr. Hussain's residence, warned Ms. Bhutto of "grave consequences" if anything happened to Mr. Hussain. He also advised his opposition colleague against continuing his hunger strike, saying he did not feel the need for it.

"When such a need arises Nawaz Sharif will be the first to join Brother Altaf," he said, calling instead for waking up the masses and mobilising the public opinion against the PPPs "policies of suppression."

On the other hand, the PPP supporters fear that if Mr. Ahmed succumbed to his bullet injuries, there could be a bloody backlash. Tension between rival youths has triggered frequent gun battles, already claiming 19 lives last week.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who is respected as a nonpartisan elderly leader, has contacted both the government and the opposition leaders to negotiate a settlement to the present confrontation, opposition sources said. They said the president also asked Ms. Bhutto to deal firmly with those who perpetuate lawlessness in the Sind Province, the sources said.

Spokesman Expresses Anguish Over Riots in India

BK0704163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] A foreign office spokesman in Islamabad has expressed anguish and dismay of the government of Pakistan over the Hindu-Muslim riots, which have erupted in Ahmedabad in the Indian state of Gujarat since last week. He regretted the loss of several innocent lives as a result of communal violence. The spokesman said it was the sincere hope of the government of Pakistan that the Indian Government cognizant of its constitutional obligation would take all effective measures to ensure the safety and security of its Muslim population and prevent further outbreak of communal violence.

Customs Seizes 1.6 Tonnes Hashish, 51 Kg Heroin

BK1004032490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1828 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 9 (AFP)—Pakistan customs officials here have seized 1.6 tonnes of hashish and 51 kilograms (112 pounds) of heroin in two operations near the border with Afghanistan. The heroin was found in the petrol tank and front bumper of a car. Officials detained a man dressed as an army captain, sources said, adding that he was being questioned. The hashish was found in another car but the occupants escaped, they said.

The golden crescent, where the borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran meet, is a major trafficking route in drugs heading for markets in the United States and Europe. In recent weeks Pakistani authorities appear to have stepped up operations against traffickers and since March 25 have announced total seizures of 750 kilos (1,650 pounds) of heroin and eight tonnes of hashish.

During a visit to Pakistan last week, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for international narcotics matters, Melvyn Levitsky, reaffirmed Washington's desire to continue cooperating with Islamabad on fighting drug trafficking.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Calls for Talks; LTTE Team Arrives

BK0904154890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 9 (AFP)—A Tamil party controlling Sri Lanka's northeast Monday [9 April] asked the government to open an unconditional dialogue to maintain the strife-torn island's territorial integrity.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said it wanted "immediate and unconditional" discussions with Colombo on a 19-point charter of demands it had raised two months ago. The demands include arrangements for the security of the people in the

Tamil-majority Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka and devolution of autonomous powers to an EPRLF-controlled council administering the sprawling region.

"The EPRLF earnestly desires the government to hold talks in order to avoid the impending catastrophe," EPRLF spokesman Abbo Yusuf told reporters here. "This is the last opportunity to preserve national unity," he added.

Mr. Yusuf, a former Politburo member of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, warned that there would be "anarchy" if the government declined to talk to the EPRLF most of whose leaders are now in self-imposed exile in India. "(But) I think the political condition will be created for the government to talk to us," he said, without elaborating.

The EPRLF and its ally, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF), have previously said that they would campaign for secession if the 19 points were not met by the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Yusuf described as "the calm before the storm" the situation in the island's northeast, which is now virtually controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a rival group now holding peace talks with Colombo.

Mr. Yusuf's statement came hours after a high-level LTTE team reached here from northern Jaffna town to continue its parleys with the government initiated last year. The delegation includes Anton Balasingham, the LTTE's theoretician, and Gopalasamy Mahendirajah and Yogaratnam Yogi, the leaders of its political wing, an LTTE spokesman said.

Mr. Balasingham said that the delegation would remain here for some days during which they would also call on President Ranasinghe Premadasa. No further details were available.

Mr. Balasingham declined to speak on the government's desire that the LTTE lay down its weapons. But LTTE leaders have said in recent weeks that the group will not surrender arms despite the pullout of Indian troops from Sri Lanka. The LTTE fought for more than two years against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's northeast under a July 1987 bilateral accord which sought to end Tamil separatism. The last Indian soldier sailed home on March 24.

The LTTE opened talks with Colombo in April 1989, with the aim of seeking substantial autonomy for the Northeastern Province in order to drop its campaign for an independent state called Eelam.

Mr. Yusuf alleged that the LTTE, which has several hundred cadres under arms, had let loose "a reign of terror" in the northeast, forcing the EPRLF and ENDLF members of the regional council to flee the country.

LTTE 'Guerrillas' Detain Indian Fishermen

BK0804115490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group has detained an unspecified number of Indian fishermen after they allegedly entered the island's territorial waters, it was announced Sunday [8 April]. Armed members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hijacked the fishing trawlers carrying the Indians off Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula late Saturday, an official statement here said. The statement said a Sri Lankan Naval patrol which had observed the LTTE cadres rounding up the fishermen was trying to contact leaders of the group in Jaffna to have them released.

"The LTTE subsequently insisted that the fishermen be allowed to be taken to Kayts in order to give a warning to them (for intruding into Sri Lankan waters)," it added. Kayts is a small island off the coast of Jaffna, an LTTE stronghold.

No further details were immediately available here. Indian diplomats said they had heard that about 200 Indian fishermen in 78 boats had been detained by the LTTE, but that they had had no official word.

It was the second such incident since March 28, when heavily armed LTTE guerrillas riding speedboats seized 311 Indian fishermen in 53 trawlers in the narrow Palk Strait dividing India and Sri Lanka. The fishermen, accused of fishing in Sri Lankan waters and damaging the nets of Jaffna fishermen, were freed after two days following appeals to the Sri Lankan president by an Indian Tamil politician.

For the past 10 years, the Palk Strait has been the scene of frequent clashes between the Sri Lankan Navy and Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas campaigning for an independent state called Eelam.

The LTTE fought a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's northeast under a July 1987 bilateral accord almost until their pullout from the island on March 24.

Detained Fishermen Released

BK0804150590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Colombo, April 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group on Sunday [8 April] freed a group of Indian fishermen it had detained when they reportedly intruded into the island's territorial waters.

A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the fishermen, who were detained late Sunday, were freed Monday [as received] afternoon and were on their way back to India.

The spokesman gave no details, and it was not immediately clear how many fishermen and trawlers were seized

by armed militants of the LTTE in the second such incident in less than a fortnight off the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

An official statement earlier Sunday said a Sri Lankan naval patrol had observed the LTTE militants rounding up the fishermen and was trying to contact the group's leaders in Jaffna to have them released. [passage omitted]

Indian diplomats said earlier they had heard that some 200 Indian fishermen in 78 fishing boats had been detained by the LTTE, but that they were not aware of their release.

It was the second such incident since March 28, when heavily armed LTTE guerrillas riding speedboats seized 311 Indian fishermen in 53 trawlers in the narrow Palk Strait dividing India and Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]